

George Washington Papers, Series 3, Subseries 3B, Varick Transcripts, Letterbook 16

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, December 1, 1782.

Dear Sir: I have duly received your two favors of the 27th. and 29th Ultio. I am very well satisfied with the account contained in the former; and approve of your conduct respecting the detention of the Flag as reported in the latter; but it will be best under our present circumstances, for you to send back Mr Gardener⁶⁰ with his Flag Vessel, at the same time making a representation of his conduct to the Commissy of Naval Prisoners, and desiring that similar practices may be prevented in future. As to Baxter⁶¹ you will keep him in close confinement, until you can send him by some safe conveyance to the provost Guard at West Point.

I should not advise you, for certain reasons which have occurred to me, to go by Water to the place you proposed. [If you can without incurring suspicion make another reconnoitre by next Tuesday or]⁶² Wednesday, I think it will be of very good consequence.

When I have a direct and safe Opportunity I will send you a few Guineas for the purchase of forage, as I know the Forage Mastr has no public Money.

In expectation of hearing from you again as soon as may be, I remain etc.⁶³

60. Richard Gardner (Gardener). He was captain of a British flag of truce boat and landed his American prisoners, which were exchanged, some miles below Dobbs Ferry, and some of them went into the country without informing Smith.

61. Baxter. He was suspected of being a British spy.

62. As the draft is mutilated, the words in brackets have been supplied from the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

63. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

In the *Washington Papers*, under date of December, 1782, is a plan by Lieutenant Colonel Smith for an attack on the British posts at the north end of Manhattan Island.

To COLONEL RUFUS PUTNAM

Head Quarters, Newburgh, December 2, 1782.

Sir: I am informed that you have had thoughts of retiring from service, upon the Arrangement which is to take place on the 1st. of Janry; but as there will now be no opening for it, unless your reasons should be very urgent indeed; and as there are some prospects which may perhaps make your continuing more eligible than was expected, I have thought proper to mention the circumstances in expectation they might have some influence, in inducing you to remain in the Army.

Colonel Shepard having retired, and Brigadr Genl Paterson being appointed to command the 1st Brigade; you will of consequence be the 2nd Col in the Line and have the command of a Brigade, while the Troops continue Brigaded as at present; besides I consider it expedient you should be acquainted that the question is yet before Congress, whether there shall be two Brigadiers appointed in the Mass Line? should you continue you will at least be a Candidate for this promotion. (The Secr at War is of opinion this promotion will soon take place) Whether it will or not I am not able to determine and therefore I would not flatter you too much with expectations, which it is not in my power to gratify; but if upon a view of these circumstances and prospects, the state of your

affairs will permit you to continue in the present arrangement (which must be compleated immediately) it will be very agreeable to Sir etc.⁶⁴

To COLONEL SAMUEL BLATCHLEY WEBB

Head Quarters, December 2, 1782.

Dear Sir: You will be pleased to order two compleat Compys of Light Infantry, to march on tuesday the 3d Inst to *Bedford* to assist in covering a Foraging Party, they will remain at that place, untill they receive Orders from Majr Tallmadge, who has directions for the purpose; the Men that are detached on that service should have 3 or 4 days provision; and I think it will be best to send the two Companies who are stationed near the Croton, as the Corps of Light Infantry will be relieved some time the latter part of this Week. I am etc.

P.S. it will not be necessary for the Major of the Battalion which is on duty to go to Bedford with the two Companies.⁶⁷

64. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

67. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID FORMAN

Head Quarters, December 3, 1782.

Dear Sir: Your favors of the 21st. Septemr. and 24th. and 26th. October came regularly to hand; as they only contained intelligence of the movements of the enemy's Fleet and required no particular answer, I did not think it worth while to give the Chain of Expresses the trouble of riding the whole way back to you.

Your letter of the 26th. of September, directed by favor of Count de Breuille,⁷¹ never reached my hands untill the 4th. of November and then it came from the Eastward. How this delay happened I cannot say; But I beg you to believe that had the letter have come directly to me, I should not have failed to have given you the information you requested.⁷²

You must have the Resolve of Congress by which Capt. Asgill was released. All things considered, I question whether the determination of Congress upon the proceedings of Lippencots Court Martial would have been different from what it has been, had not the Court of France interceded warmly in Captain Asgill's favor: but after a request made by the prime Ministers, in which he expresses the wishes of their Majesties, that Capt. Asgill's life might be spared, there was scarcely a possibility of refusing, more especially, as Sir Guy Carleton had promised to prosecute still further the persons who might be found guilty

71. Comte de Breuille, aide-de-camp to Rochambeau.

72. Forman's letter of September 26 stated that a respectable body of Whig inhabitants requested him to ascertain the truth of the report that Carleton had pledged his word to prevent all British plundering parties coming into the American lines for the purpose of plundering "and man stealing." Forman's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

of Capt. Huddy's Murther. I have lately written to him and desired him to inform me what Steps he has taken. The report that General Carleton had pledged his Word, that during his command no small parties should come within the American lines or to any part of our shores, is not literally

true. But I have reason to believe that he has taken measures to discountenance and discourage all Acts of Violence on the part of the Refugees. Indeed we had an instance of it a few days past. Two of Sheldons Dragoons were taken off their post by a party of Refugees from Morrisania and carried to Kingsbridge. They were immediately returned with their Horses, Arms and Accoutrements with a message to Colo. Sheldon intimating that as they had been captured without proper Authority, it was not thought justifiable to detain them. Upon the whole, Sir, I cannot help hoping that the savage kind of desultory War which we have long experienced is at an end. But still how safe it will be for Gentlemen, who by their activity and influence have made themselves obnoxious, to go too near the shore I will not undertake to say. Altho' there may be no danger of capture and cruel treatment from Refugees, Regular parties may make them prisoners.

Your favor of the 22d. ulto. only reached me last Night, owing to the delay of Expresses. I am obliged by your accuracy in stating the number of the Fleet which sailed on that day. I had before heard of that event, but not in so particular and satisfactory a manner.

There will be no occasion for your any longer

keeping so strict a look out upon the Coast, or a communication with Morris Town. But should there in future be any uncommon arrival at New York either of ships of War or Transports with Troops, or should an embarkation of any consequence take place, you will very much oblige me by sending a particular Express. You will now be pleased to furnish me with an account of all the expences which have been incurred by you in this Business and it shall be repaid with thanks by Sir Your etc.⁷³

To COLONEL ELISHA SHELDON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, December 3, 1782.

Dear Sir: I have reed. your favor of the 29th. ulto. and am obliged by the intelligence which it contains.

You will be pleased to put your two Companies of Infantry and fifteen of your dismounted Dragoons to be commanded by Lieut. Seymour⁷⁴ under the orders of Major Tallmadge. You will readily perceive the reason of not entrusting the object of this detachment to paper as the Express has to pass thro' an inimical part of the Country.

The inclosed to Colo. Canfield directs him to put himself under your command. You will yourself march

73. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

74. Lieut. Horace Seymour, of the Second Continental Dragoons. He served to the close of the war.

with the mounted of your Regiment; Colonel Can fields State Troops and the York State Companies in such time that you may certainly arrive in the vicinity of Dobbs's Ferry by Friday Morning at day[break]. Upon your arrival near that place you will conceal your whole party behind the Hill so as to be out of sight of the River and there wait for Orders. You will post a Centery at the Work at Dobbs's to conduct any person to you with orders.

Circumstances require that this movement should be made with as much secrecy as possible, and you are not to hint to your Officers that you are ignorant of the design; on the contrary make it appear as if you were acquainted with it, and they will be the less suspicious and inquisitive. You will endeavour to have the whole provided with three days provision. I am etc.

P.S. You will not send Colo. Canfields letter to him one moment before the time in which it will be absolutely necessary for him to prepare himself; let him bring at least 3 days provision with him.⁷⁵

To COLONEL ELISHA SHELDON

Head Quarters, December 3, 1782.

Dear Sir: I find it expedient to countermand the Order

75. The draft is in the writing the Tench Tilghman. The word in brackets has been added by Washington.

I gave this Mornng for the march of the Mounted Men of your Regt. and the State Troops of Connecticut and New York. You will therefore make no movement in consequence of that Letter, and either suppress the Order to Col Canfield, or countermand it, if it has been already communicated.

As I have an earnest desire that the Enterprise committed to Major Tallmadge, may succeed in its utmost latitude, I have to request that you will add to the Detachment which has been put under his Orders, 15 or 20 more dismounted Dragoons (i e Dragoons whose Horses are unserviceable) and

that you will give every other aid and facility in your power, to the execution of the project.⁷⁶ I am
etc.⁷⁷

76. On December 3 Washington wrote also to Lieut. Col. Samuel Canfield to put himself under the command of Colonel Sheldon, and when ordered to march "to take with you as many Men as you possibly can" This draft in the *Washington Papers*.

77. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To MAJOR BENJAMIN TALLMADGE

Head Quarters, December 3, 1782.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 28th Ulto came duly to hand. I have been under the necessity of delaying an Answer until this time.

The Relief for the Lines is to move from Camp this Morning. Col Webb has directions to send two Companies to Bedford, who will be there this Evening or tomorrow Morning, and wait untill they receive your Orders. The necessary advices respecting the Infantry Companies and Dismounted Dragoons are also given to Col Sheldon by this conveyance.

You will therefore attempt to carry the proposed Plan into execution, on thursday night the 5th inst. unless some accident should intervene to prevent it. In conducting the business, you will be governed entirely by your own discretion; should any thing happen to render the Enterprise impracticable, you will join Col Sheldon; or if he shall have marched you will follow with the whole Party to Dobbs Ferry. I am etc.

P.S. if any intelligence should arrive you will have it instantly forwarded to me, and leave the same word with Col Sheldon.⁷⁸

78. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To MAJOR BENJAMIN TALLMADGE

Head Quarters, 1 OClock P.M. December 3, 1782.

Dear Sir: The *Relief* has been countermanded entirely; but your project is to go on, without being confined precisely to the time before limited. You will however seize the first good opportunity within a Week or ten days, beyond which the Party cannot be kept on the Lines; in the mean time you will communicate your Orders to the two Companies of Lt Infantry at Bedford, and take every precaution to make the enterprise as successfull as possible.

I have written to Colonel Sheldon to add 15 or 20 more Dismounted Dragoons to the Party and to give you all the assistance in his power. I am etc.

P.S. Let not a syllable transpire, of what I mentioned in Conversation when I saw you last.⁷⁹

79. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

On December 3 Washington signed a certificate of service certifying that Major Villefranche, of the Continental Engineers, was justly deserving of "the character of a brave and deserving officers." This certificate is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, no. 41, v. 10, fol. 285.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL MOSES HAZEN

Head Quarters, December 4[-6], 1782.

Sir: I have reed. your favor of the 29th. ulto. It will be some time before Major Barber, the only Assistant Inspector at present with the Army, can attend upon you;

perhaps not till toward the latter end of the Month. By a letter from Colo Stewart, he may be expected the beginning of this, and will, I dare say, call upon you agreeable to his promise. If his health should not permit him to come on, Major Barber will go down as soon as his engagements will admit.

I have determined upon the following arrangement for the Winter Quarters of your Regt. One Company at the Post at Dobbs's Ferry; one at the Block House near Sufferans, and one at Ringwood. The remainder to be cantoned as compactly as possible near the Yellow House at Pompton. You will immediately detach the Company for Dobbs's Ferry. The Captain will put himself under the orders of Lt. Colo. Smith the Commandant of the Post. This Company is to be relieved every Fortnight. Those at Sufferans and Ringwood as often as you think proper. Their object will be to stop all straglers and suspicious persons.

I must again beg your own particular attention to endeavouring to prevent the intercourse with the enemy. By a little management you may perhaps make yourself master of the chain of communication and then give the trade a heavy Blow.

When the Inspector visits you, he can easily go round to the detached companies. I am &c.

P.S. 6th. I have since writing the above reed yours of the 5th. There appearing to be no cover at Ringwood you will canton the Company intended to have been stationed at that place with the main body of the Regiment. Lieut Torrey will apply to the Qt. Master for such of the stores in his department as he will be able to furnish. Nothing more than the shoes can be had from hence. Your Regiment will certainly have equal justice with others in regard to Cloathing; but as I wrote you before, your applications must be made immediately to the Cloathier General and if you apprehend he does not deal properly by you, to the Secretary at War.⁸⁷

**To COLONEL MATTHIAS OGDEN, OR THE SENIOR OFFICER WITH THE FIRST NEW JERSEY
REGIMENT⁸²**

Head Quarters, Newburg, December 4, 1782.

Sir: You will proceed with the first Regt of New Jersey to relieve the Corps of Light Infantry on the Lines. One entire Company is to be posted at the Block House of Stoney Point, another Company is to garrison the Works of Vet Plank's point, and the remaining seven Companies (the Lt Infantry

87. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

82. These directions are indorsed by Tench Tilghman: "Standing Instructions to Officers commanding during the Winter upon the Lines."

having joined) are to be stationed near the Croton, in such manner as shall be best adapted to prevent surprize and cover the Country from the incursions of the Enemy; for these purposes you may either extend your Patroles to Bedford, or post one of the Companies at that place; and keep such Scouts and Patroles continually in front, as you shall judge necessary.

To cut off, absolutely, all manner of illicit intercourse and commerce between the Citizens of this State and the Enemy, is an object of much importance, to which you will please to pay the greatest

attention; and I wish you to use your endeavours to detect and apprehend all Persons whatsoever, who are concerned in driving Cattle; or furnishing supplies to any of the Enemy's Posts.

It is my wish, in cantoning the Corps, that you will keep each Company as compact as may be, changing the position very frequently, and taking every precaution to prevent the Enemy from making a stroke at any of your Detachments. At the same time you will be particularly careful not to suffer your Men to be guilty of any instances of abuse to the Inhabitants, or violation of private Property. In a word, I rely upon it that uncommon vigilance, and the strictest discipline, will be maintained while the Regt. is on this command.

You will be pleased to send all Deserters and Persons coming from the Enemy directly to Head Quarters; and to forward to me the earliest information you shall be able

to obtain of any remarkable occurrence on the part of the Enemy; keeping an exact account of your Proceedings and making a general *Report*, as soon as you are *relieved*; at which time you will deliver over these Instructions to the relieving Officer for the government of his conduct.

P.S. Should you receive intelligence of any Movement of the Enemy, which may effect the Posts in the Highlands, you will not fail to communicate it instantly to Genl Knox at West Point.⁸³

83. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

On December 4 Washington wrote to Charles Joseph Hyacinthe du Houx, Comte de Vioménil a polite note of acknowledgment: "Believe me sincere when I say that you, Sir, stand among the foremost in the Esteem of Sir etc." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

On this same day (December 4) Washington also wrote a brief note to John Sullivan, at Durham, N. H., acknowledging letters to be sent into New York. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*. Sullivan had written (November 16): "having taken any Leave of political and Military worlds your excellency can expect nothing interesting or entertaining from my Pen, I shall therefore only beg Leave to assure you that I participate in all your Successes rejoice at every Smile of fortune on your Exertions and most ardently pray that your Life and health may be continued as the greatest blessing to that Country whose righteous Cause you have espoused." Sullivan's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

To PHILIP SCHUYLER

Head Quarters, December 6, 1782.

Dear Sir: I am happy to find by your favor of the 2d. that Mrs. Carter and Miss Schuyler are so far recovered as to bear a removal to Albany.

Upon a supposition that you will procure a passport from Sir Guy Carleton I shall lodge orders at the post of Dobbs's ferry to permit the Sloop to pass by; I shall expect you will drop Anchor before Newburg.

Be pleased to make Mrs. Washingtons and my Compliments to Mrs. Schuyler and the other Ladies. I am &c.⁹⁰

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, December 6, 1782.

Sir: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your two Letters of the 2d and 3rd inst. and to inform you that the matter which has been in agitation is suspended for the present. Notwithstanding which, I wish you to continue your efforts to obtain the best and most particular information in your power.

90. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

A Command from Hazen's Regt will be sent in a few days to relieve the Light Infantry Company at Dobbs' Ferry.

General Schuyler is about applying to Sir Guy Carleton for a Passport to bring his Daughters in a Vessel from Elizabeth Town to Albany; should such a Vessel arrive at Dobbs' Ferry, you will give permission for it to pass immediately.

Baxter and the *Refugee Prisoner* you directed to West Point have been sent here by mistake. The latter may be sent in on Parole for one of the Militiamen lately taken below, should this be agreed on, you can apply for him at West Point, where he will be confined and send him into the Enemy's Lines accordingly. I am, etc.

P.S. The Letter for New York you will please to forward by Flag.⁹¹

To LORD STIRLING

Head Quarters, Newburgh, December 9, 1782.

My Lord: I have been duly favored with your two Letters of the 12th. and 23 of Novr.

By a Resolution of Congress of the 27th. Ultio. I am directed "to take immediate measures for apprehending and securing Luke Knolton of Newfane and Samuel Wells of

91. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

Brattlesborough both of the District commonly called the New Hampshire Grants west of Connecticut River;" Whereupon, I have thought proper to commit the execution of this business to your Lordships discretion, and to desire that you will detach a sufficient party from the Rhode Island Regt. for the purpose, giving such private Orders and taking such prudential steps as shall be thought expedient for accomplishing the object with the least hazard, disturbance and inconvenience possible; as you will readily conceive, my Lord, this is a delicate affair, which will require much address and good management in the conducting of it. I will leave that altogether to your prudence, only suggesting whether it will not be necessary to mask the movement under pretext of sending the party to Coos, or something of that kind, and to secure their return by good arrangements and a rapid march; or perhaps if a few Horses could be procured to mount a small Detachment it would be the most effectual mode for them to arrive at the places without suspicion by different Routes and to retire very expeditiously.

In apprehending the Persons in question, the Officer Commanding should suffer no insults, or unnecessary violence to be committed, he must also be careful that the Prisoners shall be properly treated, and safely conveyed to Albany; from whence you will be pleased to have them sent in the same manner to this place.

I inclose to your Lordship under a flying seal, a Letter for the Honble Mr Chittenden, which you will be so good as to have sealed and delivered to him, as soon as conveniently may be, after the Persons named therein shall be apprehended and conveyed to a place of safety. I am etc.

P.S. Should the Enemy send from Canada, any Negroes belonging to a Mrs Laforce who lately came from thence, I pray your Lordship to have them taken care of and sent on here, that they may be forwarded to her in Virginia.³

To BRIGADIER GENERAL MOSES HAZEN

Head Quarters, Newburgh, December 9, 1782.

Sir: Captain Duncan⁴ of your Regiment has preferred a Complaint of Injustice done him by an Arrangement made in Regimental Orders of the 1st. of Jany last wherein Captains Goslain,⁵ Lee⁶ and Selin⁷ are appointed to the Command of Companies, though younger Officers than himself. I shall be glad you will inform me of the principles on which this Arrangement was made that I may be able to judge of the propriety of the Complaint. I am etc.⁸

3. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

4. Capt. James Duncan, of the Second Canadian Regiment. He retired in June, 1783

5. Capt. Clement Gosselin (Goslain). He had been wounded at Yorktown, Va., in October, 1781, and retired in June, 1783.

6. Capt. Noah Lee. He served to June. 1783.

7. Capt. Antony Selin. He served to the close of the war.

8. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Head Quarters, December 9, 1782.

Dear Sir: The Bearer Mr. Cutts, upon the recommendation of General Sullivan, has permission to endeavour to get admittance into New York to relieve a Mr. Lord a prisoner there. You will be pleased to send his letter by a Flag and permit him to go in should he obtain liberty to do so, or to have an interview with any Gentleman, should that mode be proposed.

You will at the same time forward the letters herewith for Sir Guy Carleton and Admiral Digby. That to Sir Guy contains a letter from Govr. Harrison of Virginia, concerning a sum of Money which he expects will be paid for a Vessel and Cargo cut out of Hampton Road by a Flag Vessel. Should

General Carleton comply with this demand and send the Money out to you, you will be pleased to receipt for it, and I will give you directions how to dispose of it.

Be pleased to inform me whether Mr. Skinner delivered over to you the official papers respecting the Marine as well as Land Prisoners. I am etc.⁹

9. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To CAPTAIN ABEL WEYMAN

Head Quarters, December 9, 1782.

Sir: Your favor of the 27th. of November was delivered to me on the 7th. instant. The dispute between the States of Connecticut and Pennsylvania is now before Commissioners appointed to settle it, who I hope will soon come to a determination. Be their decision whatever it may, I apprehend there will be no occasion for keeping a Garrison at Wyoming afterwards. But should it be still deemed expedient by Congress to continue it, I shall relieve you and the troops under your command. You may therefore be assured of being withdrawn or relieved ere long.

I shall immediately write to Philada. respecting the supply of the post and endeavour to have the matter put upon a regular and certain footing. I am &c.¹⁰

To COLONEL ELISHA SHELDON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, December 10, 1782.

Sir: It being now time for your Corps to retire into Winter quarters, I propose posting the two Companies of

10. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Infantry under the Orders of Major Tallmadge contiguous to the Sound; and should be very well satisfied with having the Cavalry cantoned in either of the Towns of Ridgefield, Danbury, Reading, or New Town (but not farther eastward) if convenient quarters, and a supply of Forage can be obtained for them. To ascertain this point, I wish you immediately to take a ride to those Towns and get the best information on the subject in your power. If upon proper inquiry you shall be persuaded that

the Horse can be accommodated so near the Infantry (which will be attended with considerable advantage, as they will both be under your own eye) you may remove them to the place you shall fix upon for quarters as soon as the necessary provision can be made.

The Asst. Quarter Master has written to Mr Pomeroy desiring him in case you quarter in Connecticut to take the Superintendency of the Supplies, and requesting to know what reliance he thinks may be placed upon them; with this you will be made acquainted in a few days, as Mr Pomeroy is to write directly to you on the subject.

If upon a full examination you judge there is no prospect of providing for your Cavalry there; you will be pleased to come as soon as may be to this place, from whence the Commissary. Genl of Forage will accompany you to Esopus to see what can be done in that quarter. I am etc.

P.S. Should your Corps all take Quarters in Connect. you will inform me of it so long before the Cavalry moves, that the proposed Inspection may previously take place. Yours of the 5th was duly recd.¹⁹

To MAJOR BENJAMIN TALLMADGE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, December 10, 1782.

Dear Sir: I received your favor of the 8th last evening by Express.²⁰ Tho you have not met with the success you deserved, and probably would have obtained had the Enterprize proceeded, yet I cannot but think your whole conduct in the affair was such as ought to entitle you still more to my confidence and esteem, for however it may be the practice of the world, and those who see objects but partially, or thro' a false medium, to consider *that* only as meritorious which is attended with success, I have accustomed myself to judge of human actions very differently, and to appreciate them, by the manner in which they are conducted, more than by the *Events* ; which, it is not in the power of human foresight or prudence to command. In this point of view, I find nothing irreparable, and little occasion of serious regret, except the Wound of the gallant Captain Brewster, from which I earnestly hope he may recover. Another time you will have less opposition from Winds and Weather; and success will amply compensate for this little disappointment.²¹

19. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

20. This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

21. High winds and storms held Tallmadge on the mainland several days. Colonel Thompson had sent over several boats and 3 of them were forced on a small island near the Connecticut shore. Six of Tallmadge's boats attempted a capture and in the ensuing fight Captain Brewster was dangerously wounded. One of the British boats escaped.

I have almost determined to post you, with the Infantry of the Legion, contiguous to the Sound; in which case I shall expect you to persevere in your endeavours, to keep me perfectly advised of the State of the Enemy; and perhaps some favourable moment may yet occur. I am etc.

P.S. Your Letter of the 5th with the inclosures were safely delivered to me.²²

22. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, December 11, 1782.

Sir: I inclose to you the Arragmt of Field Officers in the Mass Line; but as it is not final and may be subject to alteration from various contingency, I have not thought proper that it should be announced in the General Orders; but it will be necessary for you to post the Field Officers to the Regts agreeably to that arrangement, until further Orders that they may take their Commands accordingly; at the same time I wish it expressly to be understood and inculcated, that nothing is to be considered as final and conclusive in the Arrangement, until the first of Janry. next. I am etc.²⁵

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN PATERSON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, December 11, 1782.

Sir: I have recd your Letter of yesterday's date. Altho I cannot not consider the Arrangement of Field Officers in the Mass. Line as final, because of the alterations which may happen between this and the first of Janry; and because I have always held

25. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

up the Idea that nothing was to be deemed conclusive until that time; yet I have authorized Major General Howe to post the Officers in the mean time agreeably to the Arrangement you inclosed to me, which is all that can be necessary to be done on that head before the final completion of the Arrangement. I am etc.³¹

To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM IRVINE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, December 11, 1782.

Sir: Your Letter of the 29th October came to hand a few days since.

Viewing the matter on every side I think it is best the Expedition was laid aside; your reasoning on the subject is very just; such excursions serve only to draw the resentment of the Savages, and I much fear that to the conduct of our people may be attributed many of the excesses which have been committed on our frontiers.

I am obliged to you for the plan you suggest. I wish always that you would propose to me any Enterprizes you may think of advantage, and my endeavour shall not be wanting to promote them when our circumstances will admit.

31. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

The Expedition to Lake Erie is far above any means we have in our power; we cannot advance a single farthing, and to undertake it without any prospect of success or advantage we should have such a command of money as to induce a number of Ship Carpenters to accompany a sufficient Detachment, otherwise it would be impossible for us to build Vessels there without the Enemies knowledge and then they could and doubtless would build Vessels, with heavier Metal, as fast as we.

As to laying in a Magazine of Salted Provisions, that should be done whether an Expedition is undertaken on a large Scale or not, and the Contractors should take measures for that purpose. I shall be glad to hear from you when you have explored the Country you mention.

From every appearance, I do not imagine our frontiers will be disturbed during the Winter, and as your Command will be continued, if your private Affairs require your presence, I shall have no objection to your visiting your family for a reasonable time, whenever the situation of your Post will admit it; of that you can best judge. with great regard &c.³²

[H.S.P]

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Head Quarters, December 16, 1782.

Dr. Sir: Your Letter of the 12th. Instant was delivered

32. In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

me yesterday with its several inclosures and I am to thank you for the intelligence it contains.

I have myself seen the Work at Dobbs ferry but cannot agree with you as to its indefensible State it never was calculated to withstand a serious attack but has always been supposed equal to any small party that might attempt it by a Coup de Main; and as that Post is assigned for the only communication we have with the Enemy it appears [if not] the only [at least the best] place where the duties of your Office can be performed.

That intercourse which you say is daily increasing between the Inhabitants of the lower Country and the Enemy is indeed alarming and if possible should be broke up. I wish as you are on the spot and acquainted with the circumstances and nature of it that you would suggest the measures which you think will be most effectual for that purpose [and I will give them every support in my power].

The refugee you mention is at West Point; you may send him on Parole if he cannot be exchanged.⁵⁴

54. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, December 17, 1782.

Dear Sir: It was not until the arrival of the last eastern Mail, that I was favoured with your Letter of the 29th Novembr.

Of the Prisoners you mention to have returned from Canada, not more than five have come on to Camp; nor do I know what has become of the remainder of them; I wish (if it can possibly be avoided) that they may not be lost to the public.

The report of the relief of Gibraltar has proved but too true, as it is confirmed by a late arrival from Cadiz at Philadelphia; what effect this event will have, in accelerating or retarding a general pacification; time alone must determine. By a recent account from Mr. Harrison⁵⁸ our Commercial Agent at Cadiz it appears that M. de la Perreuse⁵⁹ of the Sceptre, had with that Ship, and two Frigates returned from a successful Enterprize against the Enemy's possessions in Hudsons Bay, having entirely destroyed the Establishment and Property of the English on that Coast, estimating the damage at 10 Millions of Livres.

The preparations for the derangement of the Massachusetts, and Connecticut Lines go on as well as I expected. No promotions have yet been made by Congress; nor have we any intelligence of importance from any quarter. I am &c.⁶⁰

[MS.H.S.]

58. Richard Harrison. He was Continental agent at Cadiz.

59. Jean François de Galaup, Comte de La Pérouse, captain of the French Navy.

60. In the writing of David Humphreys.

To COLONEL ELISHA SHELDON

Head Quarters, December 17, 1782.

Sir: The Dragoon brought me your Letter of the 13th. Yesterday. A Supply of Shirts sufficient to give each man two, will be sent here as fast as they can be transported from Philadelphia. Six thousand have already arrived and I only delayed the issue of them 'till there should be enough here to give each man one however if more do not arrive in a few days I shall order these to be issued by lot; so that the Corps who draw them may have one pr man. The Clothier has orders to

acquaint you the moment he has your proportion ready to issue. Shoes may be had on application. I am etc.⁶¹

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, December 18, 1782.

My Dear Sir: By the southern Mail of last Week I received your Letter of the 4th. of Octr enclosing the Returns of your Army: and I am just now favored with that of the 11th of Novr. covering the Returns for the Month of Octr: as I find by the latter, you had recd mine of the 23rd of Septr. I can have no occasion to suggest any thing farther at this time respecting the disposition of the Troops after the Enemy shall have abandoned the southern States; the latitude already given, will in a sufficient manner I believe, enable you to act for the public good, as the state of affairs may then seem to demand.

There had been during the summer much speculation and many conjectures that New York would be evacuated before winter, as I informed you in my last letter, which was dated the 18th of Octr; but at the same time I mentioned "I had no such idea"; and the event has justified my opinion. I am not without expectations, however, that a detachment will be

61. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

On December 17 Washington wrote also to Lord Stirling: "I entirely approve of the Orders your Lordship has given for furnishing the Levies with provisions to the first of Janry. as I think it will be necessary for the reason suggested to keep them in service untill that time." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

made in the course of the Winter to the West Indies: indeed many appearances strongly indicate this, or at least that some Orders of embarkation are expected, such as the great preparation of Transports, there being now about 120, collected from various quarters, lying in the east River, compleatly fitted for sea; and Reports still continue to assert that several thousand British Troops will yet be detached.

The sailing of the Fleet: from New York in two divisions, I suppose must have been well known in Carolina, as in all probability the last squadron served to convoy a part of the Garrison of Charles Town to the W Indies agreeably to your expectation. But, I imagine you could not have learned, (it

having been a secret to this time, which it was not prudent to commit to paper) that the Orders of the Court of Versailles to the Count de Rochambeau (who is himself about to sail for France) were that the Corps under his Orders should go to the West Indies, in case the evacuation of New York or Charles Town should take place. In expectation that the latter would happen, the French Army marched into the eastern States, towards the last of Octr, under pretext of taking winter Quarters there; but in fact, with the design of embarking on board the Fleet of the Marquis De Vaudrieul at Boston, whenever the event on which their ultimate movement depended, became sufficiently ascertained.

From the general concurrence of intelligence

and a variety of circumstances the Enemy's intention to leave Charles Town has approached so near to a certainty, that all the Army of His Most Christian Majesty (excepting the Legion of Lauzun which remains behind) have embarked and are to sail in two day's from this time.⁶³ As soon as this Fleet is clear of the Coast, and the destination of the Troops shall be positively known at N. York, (as I observed before) it appears not improbable a considerable Corps of British will be sent to Jamaica; for the safety of which Island the apprehensions of the Enemy appear to be very much alarmed, on account of the large force at the Havanna and the arrival of the Marquis de Bouillé with a reinforcement from France. How far the Combined Powers will in reality prosecute a serious Operation in that Quarter, since the failure of the attempt against Gibraltar (of the relief of which by the Fleet under Lord Howe, you will, I dare say, have heard before this reaches you), or how far the last mentioned circumstance will tend to hasten or retard a general Pacification, I cannot undertake to determine with certainty. Many Politicians imagine, that the fewer capital advantages either of the Belligerent Powers in Europe has over the other, the smaller will be the obstacles that will present themselves in the course of the negociation for Peace; but almost every thing respecting this business, in my opinion, will rather depend on the strength or weakness of Shelburne's and Fox's Parties in the British Parliament.

To wait Events, and profit by the Occasions

63. Greene's letter of December 19 to the President of Congress, a copy of which is in the *Washington Papers*, stated that the British evacuated Charleston December 14 and that their fleet put to sea Dec. 17, 1782.

which may occur, I have concentrated the Army to a point as much as possible. At West Point and the Cantonment 4 Miles from this place is our whole force, except the Rhode Island Regt at the Northwd and one or two Corps on the Lines. This Army indeed is not numerous, but the efficient strength

is greater in proportion to the total Numbers, than ever it has been; the Troops are tolerably well appointed, and have improved very much in their discipline during the last Campaign.

The Enemy's force in New York I compute to be between ten and eleven thousand. Should they weaken themselves by a detachment of 4 or 5000 Men and still attempt to hold that Garrison another Campaign, it would be an indelible blot to the reputation of this Country, not to furnish sufficient means for enabling us to expel them from the Continent. And yet I am free to confess, I have accustomed myself not to be over sanguine in any of my calculations, especially when I consider the want of energy in government, and the want of that disposition in too many of the People, which once influenced them chearfully to yield a part to defend the remainder of their property.

Thus, My dear Sir, have I given for your own private satisfaction, a pretty general detail of the affairs of our Allies, Ourselves, and our Enemies, in this part of the Continent. Hoping and expecting the southern States will be restored to perfect tranquility before this is delivered to you;

I have only to add that Mrs Washington joins me in requesting Mrs. Greene and yourself to accept our best wishes and compliments; it will ever give me pleasure to hear from you on matters of business or friendship; being etc.⁶⁴

***To LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARINUS WILLETT**

Newburgh, December 18, 1782.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 29th Ultio. from Albany, came safe to my hands. I am glad to find you enter so readily into a measure which appears very practicable in my eyes, provided the Troops for the Enterprise⁶⁵ can be properly accommodated.

I have again written to the Secretary at War respecting clothing for the York State Troops, and desired Colo. Tilghman, who left this on Sunday last for Philadelphia to *enforce* it,⁶⁶ not only on him, but on the Clothier General also; that, if it can be had, it may be sent up without delay. From the Deputy Clothier's Store at this place, I could furnish Vests and Woolen hose enough for the State Troops, and Woolen Caps, Socks, and Mitts sufficient for the whole party. Indian Shoes or Moccasons, I must depend upon you to procure; as also the

64. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

65. Against Oswego, N.Y.

66. At this point the draft has the word "*strongly*."

Snow Shoes, of which I do not see the necessity for each Mans having a pair; tho' some may be indispensably necessary I well remember to have directed (two years ago) a number of Snow Shoes to be made; and if I mistake not it was done; but I do not suppose any dependence is to be had on them at this time. It may not be amiss however, to enquire of General Schuyler (to whom I think I wrote on this subject) the Qr Master, or any other who may be likely to give information, whether they are yet in being. To provide and carry Scaling Ladders from the Settlement would at once announce your design, and more than probably defeat the Enterprise; at any rate they would be troublesome to transport, and must impede the rapidity of your movement, on which every thing depends. it appears to me therefore that the attempt would be improper, and that the difficulty may be surmounted by carrying a few Tools (to wit Axes, Saws, Augers and a Gouge) with which at a convenient time and place, a sufficient number of Ladders might [soon and easily be made].⁶⁷

The mode you p[ropose for obtain]ing the Sleighs, and assembling [the Troops, I] approve of preferably [to the Qr Masters] having any Agency in the [business as] I do of the time named for th[e execution if the] Clothing can be got to you [in Season, but] having doubts on this hea[d I should be glad] to know to how late a perio[d can be delayed with safety, on Acct. [of the] Ice on the Oneida Lake. and goodness of the Sleighing. If there is a *necessity* for a Party to preceed the Sleighs

67. Mutilated. The words in brackets in this letter are supplied froth the draft, which is also in the writing of Washington.

a day or two, to mark the rout, it ought to consist of picked men of tried fidelity; and even then, the chance of discovery is greater than it otherwise wd. be.

The strength of *your* Party should be proportioned to *that* of the Garrison you attempt, for which reason every possible means should be used to obtain the most accurate acct. of it. If you have men to set the enemy at defiance, in case of their discovering you previous to the Assault, or miscarriage therein, it is all that is necessary; more than these would render [your movements unwieldy] and slow; conse[quently mor]e liable to discovery in your [preparatio]n and on the March.

[I s]hould be glad to hear from you [again on th]is head by some safe conveyan[ce; and if matte]rs can be properly prepared f[or the Enterpri]se, and nothing more than I kno[w of at this ti]me to

hinder it, I will be at Al[bany when you] March, that I may be at hand to remove difficulties if any should occur. With great esteem etc.

P S. It will be essentially necessary to fix your Eyes upon some one or more persons (deserters or otherwise) who have been in and are well acqd. with the Enemies works, and seize them at the moment they are wanted that you may have them as guides.

[M.L.]

To WILLIAM DUER

Head Quarters, December 20, 1782.

Sir: Apprehensive that the passage of the North River, will soon be obstructed, if not totally shut up by the ice; so as to render it impossible to transport Cattle or other supplies from the eastern side to this Army. I have thought it necessary to mention the circumstance, in season, that you might be provided against the contingency, and fall upon some resource to insure the supplies thro' the severity of the Winter. I am etc.⁷³

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Head Quarters, December 22, 1782.

Dear Sir: I am favored with yours of the 20th. The Money you have recd. for Governor Harrison, agreeable to his desire, you will be pleased to remit to Mr. Saml Inglis of Philadelphia, or inform him it is in your hand, subject to his Orders.

I have also to request you will inform Messrs John Channing, Peter Taylor and Aaron Loockock,⁷⁴ whose

73. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

74. Of South Carolina. Their petition, dated Dec. 18, 1782, is in the *Washington Papers*.

Petition you inclosed to me, that Congress having recommended that no "Subjects of His Britannic Majesty coming directly or indirectly from any parts of the British Dominions be admitted into any

of the United States during the War"; therefore no Power inferior to that Honble Body will grant the indulgence they solicit. if, however these Gentlemen choose to apply to the Executive of the State to which they formerly belonged, or to the Delegates from that State now in Congress to make interest for them, Letters for the purpose may be forwarded; but until permission is obtained from the Sovereign Power as before mentioned no Passports will be granted.

As I mentioned in a former Letter, I will send you by the first good opportunity, three or four Guineas to procure Forage; after which you will make the best Arrangement in your power with the Qr Mastr for a further supply. I am etc.

P.S. I wish you to ascertain the number of Vessels in the fleet destined for England; and whether there are any Men except Invalids on board.⁷⁵

75. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL TOBIAS FERNALD

Head Quarters, Newburgh, December 23, 1782.

Sir: Altho' I cannot help feeling an extreme reluctance at parting with the veteran and faithful Officers of the Army I have the honor to command, before the conclusion of the War; yet when I am convinced by any of them, that their constitution is entirely ruined; and their impaired state of health such as renders them unfit for further duty, I cannot think it justifiable to urge them to continue, especially when there is such a provision for them to retire upon as at present; it is therefore only in consequence of the representation contained in your Letter of the 22d inst. that I am induced to acquiese, and do hereby consent to your request for retiring upon the Emoluments of the Act of Congress of the 19th of Novr last.

I beg you will be pleased to accept my sincere wishes for the recovery of your health and believe that I am etc.⁷⁸

78. The draft is in the writing of David Humphrey's.

INSTRUCTIONS TO PETER TEN BROECK

Head Quarters, Newburgh, December 23, [1782].

Sir: You will proceed as expeditiously as may be, with the Letter now committed to you, addressed to Thomas Chittenden Esqr. of Bennington; and deliver the same to him, you will be careful to take a receipt for the delivery of the Letter, and return directly to Head Quarters with it.⁷⁸

To COLONEL RICHARD BUTLER

Head Quarters, Newburgh, December 24, 1782.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 7th inst. has been duly received. Agreeably to your request I enclose Discharges for the Men you have mentioned by name; whenever there are any other instances in which you think the good of the service will be promoted by similar exchanges, I shall not hesitate to give my assent thereto.

At the same time, I am very happy to hear you are to continue in service, I am extremely distressed with a consideration of the disagreeable feelings and prospects of

78. The draft is in the writing of David Humphrey's.

many of the brave Officers, from whose zeal experience and ability the Public has derived such essential services, and who are now to bid adieu to their Military connections.

Altho' it may not be in the power of our Country and the present age to do ample justice to the Merits of those gallant Officers and Men who have composed the American Army, and by their bravery and perseverance effected the Independence of this vast Continent; yet a pleasing consciousness of having been instrumental in producing so great an event, and a reflexion that the unbiassed World and Posterity will view their exertions in the fairest point of light, will soothe many an anxious hour. and I cannot but hope the sweets of liberty, peace, and domestic enjoyment, are yet to be tasted by those who have shared so freely in the fatigues and dangers of procuring these inestimable blessings for others. With sentiments of the highest esteem etc.⁹³

93. In the writing of David Humphreys. From a photostat, of the original, kindly furnished by Miss Eleanore Bruno, of Ridley Park, Pa.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL JEREMIAH OLNEY

Head Quarters, Newburgh, December 24, 1782.

Dear Sir: In answer to your favor of the 14th enclosing an application from Lieut Greene of your Regt. to

retire from service, I have to inform you, that, (by the explanation of the Secretary at War) the Emoluments of the Act of Congress of the 19th of Novr last, were not intended to extend to any Officers except such as belong to the Lines which are reduced; therefore the request respecting Lieut Greene, however deserving he may be, cannot be complied with, unless a derangement should take place in your Corps; and this you know will ultimately depend upon the States compleating or not compleating the Regt to the proposed establishment of 500 Rank and File.

Perhaps Mr Greene had better wait the event, and if the reduction should be carried into execution avail himself of it; otherwise it will be at his option to make his resignation at any time. I am etc.⁹⁴

[R.I.H.S.]

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, Newburgh, December 25, 1782.

Sir: The bad state of Affairs in your Department is such as makes your presence indispensably necessary with the Army. The complaints of all from the Major General down to the lowest Staff Officer entitled to keep a Horse, are

94. In the writing of David Humphreys.

Washington inclosed this letter In a brief note (December 25) to Lord Stirling, asking him to forward it. The draft of this letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

aggravated to the highest possible degree on account of the continual want of forage. As a specimen of the distress which has fallen under my own observation, you may be assured my Horses have been four days without a handful of Hay, and three of the same without a mouthful of grain; since which I have been induced to order forage to be purchased with my own private Money at any

expençe, rather than see them perish before my eyes; but I am now informed it is fourteen days since the Horses of the Army have had either long or short feed of any kind whatever. All business which ought to be performed by Officers serving on horseback must cease to be done. Some of the General Officers have sent every Horse into the Country; others have notified me that it will not be possible for them to attend at Head Quarters on any occasion, even the most pressing, their Horses being too weak to carry them, and they unable to walk so great a distance: Nor can I expect the Field Officers of the day to perform their duties any longer. There is another public inconveniency which will probably happen, and of which it will be proper to give the Post Master Genl timely notice, that is, the total incapacity of the Dragoon Horses destined to escort or rather to carry the *Mail* to proceed any longer. He must therefore expect *that* in which this Letter goes to be the last which will be received from the Eastward thro' this mode of conveyance, until new Arrangements shall take place; as the Dragoons were obliged to bring the

last Weeks mail from Morris Town a considerable part of the distance on their backs, and as their Horses have had no forage from that day to the present. How far these evils are absolutely irremediable I do not undertake to decide; but if they can be avoided, I am certain I need not in addition to all the other ill consequences, attempt to enforce the ill economy which must result from this unparalleled scarcity, by an example which General Gates has just mentioned, that for want of five pounds worth of forage he has lost a public Team of Horses worth more than £100.

My principal objects, Sir in giving you this detail of particulars are to convince you that the distresses and clamours for want of forage have never been so great at any former time as at the present Moment, to request you will lay a state of the Matter before the Superintendt of Finance, and after making the best Arrangements in your power to procure a future supply, that you will proceed without loss of time to join the Army. I am etc.⁹⁶

96. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL MOSES HAZEN

Head Quarters, December 25, 1782.

Sir: I have sent orders to Colonel Humpton in Philadelphia, to send on immediately all the recruits who have been inlisted from among the Prisoners of War. Colonel Humpton is to send them as far as Princeton and I must desire you to send a sufficient number of Officers to meet them there and conduct them to this place; their numbers I believe amount to about 120 or 130. Provision is to be

furnished them to Philadelphia to bring them to Pompton and the necessary Waggon to convey their Provision and baggage to the Army.

You will please to give the necessary Instructions to the Officer who is to take charge of them, recommending the strictest regularity during the March. Colonel Humpton is to advise you by express the day they are to

arrive at Princeton. I am &c.⁹⁸

To COLONEL STEPHEN MOYLAN

Head Quarters, December 25, 1782.

Dear Sir: I have been favored with the receipt of your Letter of the 15th inst. concerning the reduction of your Regiment; and have conversed with the Secretary at War on the subject: that Gentleman (on whose determination will depend the particular modes to be adopted in the reformation of the Lines not serving immediately under my Orders) has gone to the Eastward, without deciding any thing positively as to the reduction of the Cavalry; however it appeared to me, to be his prevailing opinion that as your Legion could not remain entire, but must be reduced to the broken part of a Corps, it would be best to annex the Company of Infantry as a flank Company to one of the three Regts of the Pennsylvania Line, still allowing the Officers and Men the Pay and Emoluments they formerly enjoyed; should this be the case, or at any rate, I imagine the remainder of the Legion will soon be too small a command for even a single Field Officer of any grade.

But as nothing can be ultimately determined upon before the return of Genl Lincoln, and as

98. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

some event may happen or intelligence arrive in the mean time, which will lead to an alteration in the plan of Arrangement; I thought it expedient to take the first opportunity to advise you of these particulars, and to assure you (whatever the circumstances of the Public or the Service may eventually require) of the unalterable esteem etc.⁹⁷

To COLONEL RICHARD HUMPTON

Head Quarters, December 25, 1782.

Sir: The Recruits raised from among the Prisoners of War are to be sent on as soon as possible to the Army. Immediately therefore on the rect of this you will please to have them put under the direction of a proper number of the most prudent Officers you have under your Command, and sent to Princeton, where Officers will be Ordered to attend and bring them forward.

As I believe there is no issuing Store between Philadelphia and Pompton you will have them furnished with Provision to carry them to the latter place, and you will apply to the Quarter Mr General or

97. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

his Deputy for the necessary assistance to convey their Provision and baggage to the Army.

Previous to their March you will send an Express to General Hazen who commands at Pumpton acquainting him of the time they will arrive at Princeton that he may order the Officers who are to take charge of them from that place, to be there in proper time.

You will give the necessary instructions to the Officer you send, to observe the strictest regularity on the march and to take every precaution against desertion.⁹⁹

To MAJOR BENJAMIN TALLMADGE

Head Quarters, December 26, 1782.

Sir: As a reward for the signal gallantry of Captain Caleb Brewster of the 2d. Regt. of Artillery and the Officers and Men under his command, in capturing on the Sound two Armed Boats then in the service of the King of Great Britain, and commanded by Captains Hoyt and —, You are hereby authorized to cause the said Boats, with all the property taken therein, to be disposed of for the benefit of the Captors and duly shared among them. I am &c.¹⁰

99. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

10. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Head Quarters, December 27, 1782.

Dear Smith: The Commander in Chief who has just gone to Poughkeepsie, has left it in charge with me to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 25th. and to inform you that he has no objections to your coming to the Army for the purposes you mention; at which time your friends will be very happy to see you at Head Quarters. Mrs. Washington (who desires me to present her Complts to you) has often expressed a wish to that effect since her arrival.

Orders will be lodged by this conveyance at Kings Ferry to forward your Dispatches.¹² I inclose a number of late Papers for your amusement, and remain with great sincerity, etc.

P.S. The Genl desires you will forward the Letter to Sir Guy Carleton by Flag.¹³

12. Humphreys wrote (December 27) to the commanding officer at Kings Ferry that the Commander in Chief orders that all dispatches received from, and franked by, Lieutenant Colonel Smith at Dobbs Ferry were to be forwarded immediately to headquarters by a trusty noncommissioned officer or soldier. "This to be considered as a standing order." Humphreys's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

13. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphrys A D. Camp."

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, December 29, 1782.

Sir: You will please to take immediate measures to dissolve the chain of Dragoons and discharge the Expresses stationed between this and Boston, assuring them and the People who have furnished Provisions and Forage that the accounts will be paid as soon as they can be sent to Philadelphia and the Money obtained. Sheldon's Dragoons are to join their Corps.

An Accurate state of the expences properly attested will be wanted immediately to be transmitted to the Minister of France. I am etc.¹⁹

19. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

INSTRUCTIONS TO MAJOR WILLIAM BARBER AND THOMAS COGSWELL²⁰

Head Quarters, Newburgh, December 29, 1782.

Gentlemen: You are hereby particularly appointed to inspect the Horses of Sheldon's Legion; for which purpose you will repair as soon as may be to the Quarters of that Corps at Danbury and the adjacent Towns. It is much my wish that your inspection and examination into the state and quality of the Horses should be as accurate as possible; And you are authorized and directed to suffer only those to continue in the Corps, which in your judgment will be fit for the Dragoon service the next Campaign, [that the Public may not be burthened with unnecesy expence]. All the others, that is, such as in your opinion will be unfit for that service, you will discriminate accordingly and having mustered them out, will cause them to be delivered to the Qr Mastr Genl to be sold, or otherwise disposed of in such manner as he shall think proper.

P.S. After having compleated the business committed to you, a Report is to be given to Head Quarters.²¹

20. Barber was a subinspector of the Continental Army. He had been wounded at Yorktown, Va. Cogswell was the Wagonmaster General of the Continental Army.

21. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The phrase in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

To JOHN PIERCE²²

Head Quarters, December 29, 1782.

Sir: The Bearer Mr. James Catterline has my Warrant on you for forty dollars which he is to receive for transporting the Cannon presented by Congress to Count Rochambeau from this place to Philadelphia.

If it should happen that you have no money in hand to answer the contingent Expences of the Army I must request you to call on Mr. Morris for so much as will answer the present purpose. I am &c.²³

22. Paymaster General of the Continental Army, then in Philadelphia.

23. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To COLONEL HENRY JACKSON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, December 31, 1782.

Sir: In answers to yours, respecting subsistence for Lt. Walker, I am directed to inform you; that

the General cannot conceive that it will take him two Months to settle his Accounts, which are understood to be closed at the end of every Month. His Excellency therefore directs that he should draw one Months subsistence; however if at the expiration of that time the business should not be compleated, upon your Certificate that he has been assiduously employed in it, a farther order will be given.

As I was absent when your Letter arrived, your Orderly Man has necessarily been Detained until this Morn^g.²⁸

28. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The wording of the last sentence justifies the idea that Washington signed this letter, though Humphreys evidently intended to sign it.

On December 31 Washington wrote briefly to Gen. Moses Hazen that the matter respecting Captain Duncan might remain "as at present, until further directions. All Deserters who come to your Cantonment are to be sent to Head Quarters; they may draw provisions to bring them there." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

To COLONEL JOSEPH VOSE

Head Quarters, January 1, 1783.

Sir: I approve of your conduct respecting the Flag. Messrs Lewis and Nicholson¹ are to be permitted to proceed on their Journey, but Mr Kinloch will be under the necessity of returning back as I have informed him. Mr. Mott, who was detained some day ago may also return.

In future Flags of truce from the Enemy properly authenticated and conducted are to be received at the New Bridge on the Croton until further directions. Other Instructions will be given in a few days on this subject to the Officer commanding on the Lines. I am &c.

P.S. You will please to send a safe guard back with Mr Kinloch if he chooses it.²

1. John Nicholson was from Virginia.

2. The draft, in the writing of David Humphreys, is inadvertently dated 1782.

TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Head Quarters, January 2, 1783.

Dear Smith: Capt Merrit who is the bearer of this has permission from the Executive of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to go into New York for the purpose of delivering some Money to our Naval Prisoners. His Excellency desires you will facilitate the execution of this business, as much as lies in your power, by granting a flag for him to proceed by land or Water as may be most convenient, and that you will either write in his favor to the Commissy of Prisoners or forward any such Letters as may be thought necessary to procure admission for him into the Enemy's Lines. Should he receive a sum of Money in New York upon some orders he is possessed of he will be at liberty to bring it out without molestation.⁶ I am etc.⁷

6. On January 2 Humphreys wrote to General Knox, informing him of Captain [John?] Merritt's going in, and requesting a small escort for him "if it shall be thought...necessary." Humphrey's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

7. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphrys A. D. C."

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 3, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have been favored with your Letters of the 18th and 25th Ultio. the former enclosing Captain Bannister's⁸ application to you; the latter giving advice of the departure of the french Fleet.

I approve of your appointing Capt. Day⁹ to succeed Captain Bannister in the duty of receiving, mustering and forwarding Recruits from Springfield; as you have been particularly acquainted with the mode of conducting this business, I have only to request, if you think any thing farther necessary in addition to the Orders already given, that you will take the trouble of communicating Instructions accordingly.

It gives me infinite pleasure to learn our Allies departed from the Continent under such favourable impressions. I doubt much whether there ever was an instance before, where the Troops of two Nations which had served together in the Field, have parted with such sentiments of sincere affection and mutual regret.

By the latest accounts from Europe, it appears a Treaty of Amity and Commerce between the Dutch and the United States was entirely agreed upon and settled, and that Copies were making out for signature. The Commissioners were still at Paris, and notwithstanding Mr Oswald has received a Commission investing him with ample Powers for Negociation with the United

8. Capt. Seth Banister, of the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment.

9. Capt. Luke Day, of the Seventh Massachusetts Regiment. He served to June, 1783.

States, yet appearances were so equivocal that the best informed were much at a loss whether we must expect Peace or a War. With sentiments of esteem etc.¹⁰

[MS.H.S.]

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE OFFICER COMMANDING ON THE CROTON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 3, 1783.

Sir: As I have thought proper to direct that in future and until further Orders Flags of Truce properly authenticated and conducted agreeably to the Rules of War may be received at the New Bridge on the Croton: and that Flags may also be sent from thence unto the British Lines under certain limitations; you will be pleased to observe the following Regulations in conducting this business (viz)

All Flags from the Enemy are to be stopped at the Bridge, the Letters and Papers received, and the bearer or bearers discharged and sent back as soon as conveniently may be; while the person or persons who came with the Flag remain there, he or they are to be constantly in the charge of a Commissad or Non Commissioned Officer; and whenever it may be thought necessary a guard will also be ordered to prevent a removal from the quarters assigned, or any kind of improper or illicit intercourse with the Inhabitants of the Country.

10. In the writing of David Humphreys.

It need not be suggested that all Persons coming under the sanction of a Flag and demeaning themselves properly, ought be treated with civility; But no Military characters are on any pretext to be suffered to come any farther within our out Posts than is necessary for their accommodation; Nor are any Citizens or persons of any description whatsoever (except Prisoners of War exchanged or on parole) coming in this manner from the British Lines to be admitted into any of the United States, without the special Permission of Congress, or the Supreme Executive of the State into which they wish to go. All others are to be remanded to the Enemy's Lines.

Flags are to be granted by you only in consequence of Orders from Congress, the Secry at War, Executive of either of the States or myself. All Letters and Papers that arc to be sent in by Flag, must be previously examined at Head Quarters, except such as may be forwarded by some of the authorities before mentioned, or written by persons who have Passports from them, on the business relative to which permission for Flags was granted to them. You will suffer no Article of goods or Merchandize, to come out by Flag; and all Letters Dispatches &c brought by such conveyance are to be forwarded to Head Quarters for inspection; except such as are addressed to Congress, the Secy at War, or Chief Magistrate of some of the United States.

P. S. This Order to be delivered over to the relieving Officer from time to time.¹⁷

17. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To MAJOR CHRISTIAN HOLMER¹¹

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 3, 1783.

Sir: I have received your favor of—¹² It was not expected by Congress in their Resolution of the 7th of Augst. last, nor is it possible from the circumstances, that I should take measures for compleating

or even doing any thing in the arrangement of any of the Lines of the Army excepting those which are under my *immediate* command.¹³ I have therefore transmitted a copy of your Letter to the Secry at War, in whose power I suppose it may be, to give you any information on the subject you may desire. I am, etc.¹⁴

11. Of the First Continental Artillery.

Identically this same letter was sent to Capt. Lilburn Williams, of the Third Maryland Regiment, who had been wounded at Camden in May, 1781, and retired Jan. 1, 1783; and to Capt. Robert Kirkwood, of the Delaware regiment, who served to the close of the war, was captain of the Second United States Infantry in March, 1791, and killed by the Indians near Fort Recovery, Ohio, in November, 1791.

12. The blank in the letter to Holmer was filled by "13th Decr."; in that to Williams by "19 Decr."; and in the one to Kirkwood by "18 Decr." Williams's letter to Washington is in the *Washington Papers*.

13. Major Holmer had been retired in January, 1781, and had written to Washington of his poverty in retirement and praying assistance. Holmer's letter as in the *Washington Papers*.

14. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM PATERSON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 4, 1783.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 2nd respecting the distribution for the Recruits of the Masstts Line.

Some time ago the Secretary at War took measures to confine the Recruiting Service in Virginia [and Pennsylvania] to the Infantry alone; and I am clearly of opinion for the reasons by which he was actuated as well as for some others, that under our present circumstances and prospects the augmentation of the Infantry in every State is at least as important as that of the Cavalry or Artillery can be, if not more so; you will therefore, continue to have a ninth part only of the Recruits of your State attached to the Masstts Regt. of Artillery until further Orders and will transmit a Copy of this Letter to Col Crane for his information. I am etc.¹⁸

To ABRAHAM SKINNER

January 6, 1783.

Sir: I inclose you a Letter I have received from

18. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

Mr. Morris and must desire that you will comply with the Contents of it without delay by sending to Mr. Turner²² every Official Paper respecting his department, either in your possession or that of your deputies, and at the same time you will give him every information in your power, of the State in which you left the Marine part of your Appointment.²³

To COLONEL ELISHA SHELDON

Head Quarters, January 8, 1783.

Sir: I am to acknowledge the rect of your Letter of the 6 of this Mo. The matter respecting the Servants of the Officers of Cavalry shall be represented to the Secretary at War and until his directions are taken the Pay Master shall be ordered to Pay Subsistence to the number of Servants allowed by the Orders of Jany last.

Lt Colonel Jameson has the leave you request. I am &c²⁷

22. Thomas Turner, intendant of naval prisoners.

23. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

27. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To HEZEKIAH WETMORE²⁸

Head Quarters, January 8, 1783.

Sir: In the regulation for paying Subsistence to the Officers of the Army it was not considered that the Officers of Cavalry are allowed more servants without Arms than those of the Infantry.

Untill the Secy at War shall give further directions on this head you will please to pay to the Officers of Cavalry subsistence for the number of Servants without Arms allowed them by the regulation made by a Board of Genl. officers in Philada. last Winter and published in the Genl Orders of the 18th Jany last.²⁹

To COLONEL LEWIS NICOLA

Head Quarters, January 11, 1783.

Sir: In the absence of Col Trumbull, I took the liberty of opening your Letter of the 9th and laying the subject of it before the Commander in Chief, in ansr to which His Excellency directs me to inform you, that upon proper Certificates

28. Deputy Paymaster General.

29. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

and testimonies from Persons on the spot that the Provisions in questions were lost by inevitable accident and without any carelessness or fault of those concerned in the transportation, an order will be given for replacing it; at the same time the General requests to be informed of the reason or necessity for continuing any of your Corps at Fishkill, as it was his expectation and intention that the post there should be entirely broken up, and all Guards discontinued as soon as the stores were removed; it was with this view, His Excellency adds that the Barracks on Constitution Island were designed for the accommodation of the Corps of Invalids. I am &c.⁴⁵

To BRIGADIER GENERAL OTHO HOLLAND WILLIAMS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 12, 1783.

Sir: I am favored with your Letter of the 1st Instant. Not having been consulted on, or made acquainted with any plans in contemplation for organizing the Independant Corps, or reforming the Cavalry at large, all that I can observe on the subject of your Letter at present, is, that in case any

arrangement should take place, by which a command suitable to your rank can be conferred on you without injury to the feelings of other Gentlemen, it will be extremely satisfactory to me. I am etc.⁴⁶

[MD.H.S.]

45. The draft is in the writing of and the letter sent is signed by David Humphreys.

46. In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To COLONEL HENRY JACKSON

Head Quarters, January 12, 1783.

Sir: The Commander in Chief has considered the case of Lt Cole⁴⁷ and has directed me to inform you that on its being fully ascertained that he applied in time and his being arranged is not owing to any neglect of his, there will be no objection to his being deranged, provided also that the state of the Line will now admit of it. I have the honor etc.⁴⁸

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, January 15, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 1st. instant.

Congress have been pleased to promote Colonels Greateon, Dayton and Putnam to the rank of Brigadiers, by their Act of the 7th of this Month.

Altho' we have no official Accounts of the Evacuation of Charles Town, yet the certainty of that event is placed beyond dispute by the publications in New York; at which place

General Leslie and part of the Garrison have arrived, the remainder have gone to the West Indies.

Should the King of Great Britain's speech to his Parliament, or any European Advices of consequence arrive sooner at the eastward, than in any other quarter; I shall be much obliged to you, for forwarding the same to me, as early as conveniently may be. I am etc.

P. S. Notwithstanding the pointed applications which have been made to General Glover, to return the Soldiers he took from the Army as Servants, or replace them with others, I find it has not yet been done. I beg you will inform him unless the requisition is immediately complied with, I shall think myself under the necessity of representing the matter to Congress.⁵⁷

[MS. H.S.]

47. Lieut. Thomas Cole, of the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment. He was aide-de-camp to General Paterson from 1780 to June, 1783.

48. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "B[enjamin] W[alker]."

57. In the writing of David Humphreys.

To JOHN MOYLAN

Head Quarters, January 12, 1783.

Sir: By a Letter of the 6th. from the Asst Secry at War, I find a quantity of Clothing was ready for transportation, and cannot but flatter myself it has been forwarded in the course of the last week as all the Articles are extremely wanted by the Troops at this vigorous season.

I am sorry to observe by a Letter from you to Mr Jackson, that the amount of shirts which have been and are to be sent on immediately will not be sufficient to give every man two, by several thousands. This is the more unfortunate, as by the information I had received from Philadelphia I have ventured to assure the Army that they should be supplied in a very short time with two shirts pr man, having thus pledged my honor, I shall hold myself responsible for their receiving what I have promised; which if the public cannot or will not perform I must take other means to have effected; relying fully on your exertions I am &c.⁴⁹

49. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, January 15, 1783.

Sir: I have the pleasure to congratulate you on your late Promotion to the rank of B. General which took place in Congress the 7th Instant.

Your Commission arrived here yesterday and I shall keep it till I have the pleasure to deliver it to you in

Person, which I must request may be as soon as possible, and that you come prepared to remain with your Brigade the remainder of the Winter. I am &c.

If Cap Schaack is not yet gone in to New York, I must request you to take measures to oblige him to go in.⁵⁶

To CAPTAIN JOB SUMNER

Head Quarters, January 15, 1783.

Sir: The Commander in Chief desires me to inform you, that upon mature consideration he does not think himself authorized to give an Order for the payment of your forage Account; because it would be contravening the regulation of Congress, as fixed in the late system for conducting the Qr Mastrs Department, which enumerates the Officers who shall alone be entitled to draw forage from the public and because it would not only operate in the present case, but establish a precedent in future; however, His Excellency will represent the matter to the Secy at War on his return from the eastward and obtain his sentiments thereon: I send back your Certificate and Accounts that they may not be mislaid; and that you may have an opportunity of exhibiting them, whenever it shall

56. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

be necessary. I am etc.⁵⁸

To CAPTAIN EPHRAIM FENNO⁶⁶

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 17, 1783.

Sir: The Commander in Chief expects whenever there are two Field Officers with the Regt. on the Lines, that one of them will take the Command of the Posts at Kings Ferry and at other times that the senior Officer present will have the general superintendence of them.

As to the salted provisions which is in danger of being spoiled; His Excellency thinks, if it is the property of the present, Contractors, their Commissary at Kings ferry ought to be informed of it, that he may take measures to have it issued or put in better order; and indeed if it belongs to the public, he wishes similar measures may be adopted without delay. I am &c.⁶⁷

58. The draft is in the writing of and the letter sent is signed by David Humphreys.

66. Of the Second Continental Artillery. He was transferred to the corps of artillery in June, 1783, and served to June, 1784.

67. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphrys, A. D. C."

To COLONEL WALTER STEWART

Head Quarters, January 18 1783.

Dr. Sir: I am extremely happy to hear from some Gentlemen, who very lately left Philadelphia, of your recovery; and I take the more pleasure in congratulating you on this event,

from having once almost despaired that it would ever happen; this was in consequence of the repeated accounts I had received of your dangerous illness.

I cannot now omit taking the first opportunity of mentioning the state of the Inspection Department to you. Notwithstanding I am convinced that Major Barber uses the greatest diligence, and does as much as is in the power of any one Man towards accomplishing the business of Inspecting and Mustering the Troops Monthly; yet it scarcely need be suggested, that without more assistance, the Department must lose, in a great degree its efficiency and utility, and dwindle into a name only; it is for these reasons that I feel exceedingly anxious for your return to the Army; and especially as the great object in taking a Cantonment of repose for the Winter was to improve the tranquility of that season, by encreasing the emulation, and establishing the Discipline of the Army; and by introducing a perfect system of police to render the Troops more and more fit for the activity of service at the opening of the Campaign; to which purposes I flattered myself the frequency and exactness of Inspections would have greatly contributed; I shall therefore expect to hear from you, or rather to

see you, as soon as it can possibly be made convenient for you to undertake the Journey. [bring Mrs Stewart with you, and then your temptation to return to Phila will not be so powerful.] I am etc.⁷⁰

70. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The phrase in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

To DAVID BROOKS

Head Quarters, January 18, 1783.

Sir: It is the Commander in Chiefs pleasure that you issue five hundred Woolen Caps, five hundred Socks and five hundred pr of Mits to Capt Ten Eyck Pay Mastr of Col Willets Regt. for the use of that and Col Olney Regt; also such other Articles as you may have in store, which are wanted by sd Regts; the same to be delivered on account, and proper vouchers Recd. for the whole, when the Cloathing is issued to them which is daily expected from Philadelphia. I am etc.⁷¹

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARINUS WILLETT

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 20, 1783.

Sir: Your Pay Mastr will inform you that besides the usual proportion of cloathing, a Number of Articles have been issued, ostensibly for the use of Olney's and your Regt; but in reality, they are designed only for the object you have in contemplation unless it is attempted, I would not have any of

71. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphreys. A. D. C."

the Woolen *Socks, Caps, or Mitts* distributed among the Troops, I have ordered them all therefore to be addressed to you and to await your Orders. I am etc.⁷⁴

To COLONEL JOSEPH VOSE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 21, 1783.

Sir: A representation having been made to me by the Civil Authority of this State, that sometime in the Month of July last a Warrant was issued for apprehending Lieut. Nathl Stone⁸¹ of your Regt. for the Murder of Capt Luke Hitchcock⁸² of the said Regt, and that the Officer charged with the execution thereof hath, never been able to apprehend the said Lieut Stone; whereupon I find myself under the necessity of pointing you to the 1st Art of the 10th Sect of the Articles of War, for the government of your conduct on the premises, in case any future application should be made to you by the Authority of the State. I am etc.⁸³

74. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

81. Capt. Nathaniel Stone, of the First Massachusetts Regiment. He served to June, 1784.

82. Captain Hitchcock was killed by Stone in a duel at West Point in February, 1782.

83. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To MAJOR BENJAMIN TALLMADGE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 21, 1783.

Sir: I have lately received your Letter of the 4th and have now to give my approbation to the Plan contained therein, for suppressing the illicit intercourse which prevails so scandalously with the Enemy. As this is an object in itself very important, and particularly recommended by Congress I cannot but think it proper that the Boatmen actually employed to assist you in the performance of this service, should be entitled to receive public provisions. You are therefore, hereby authorized to draw from the Contractors for such proportion of them as you shall judge essentially necessary; taking care to limit the number as much as the circumstances will admit, to prevent impositions of every kind, and to give the Vouchers in such manner as that they may be authenticated by a farther sanction from Head Quarters if necessary.

The Quarter Mastr Genl upon your application to him, will give what aid he is able towards furnishing Fuel for your Command. I am etc.⁸⁴

84. In the writing of David Humphreys. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J

On January 21 Benjamin Walker wrote to Lieut. Col Francis Barber concerning the discharge of a minor. "The General wishes an Enquiry to be made whether the...facts are truly stated and and if there are any other circumstances attending the matter." Walker's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

***To LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARINUS WILLETT**

Newburgh, January 22, 1783.

Dear Sir: On the 20th by your Pay master, I informed you that besides the usual proportion of Clothing I had sent to your orders Woolen Caps, Socks, and Mitts for the intended Enterprise, to be made use of or not according to the circumstances. I have also written to Mr. Duet⁸⁶ who is now at Albany, to lay in a Months Provisions for a hundred men at each of the Posts of Forts Renselaer and Herkimer.⁸⁷ And, till farther orders have placed the Rhode Isld. Regiment under your direction.

For the reasons you assign, I approve of the time proposed for the Attack,⁸⁸ and suppose it will be necessary for you to begin your March from Fort Herkimer at the time you mention, viz. on the 8th or 9th of next Month. If the Sleighing should be good, and business does not prevent it I will endeavour to be at that place, or Fort Renselaer by that time; but of this you will take no notice to *any body* nor suffer it to have any influence on your preparations or conduct before or at the time as many things may intervene to detain me.

All that remains to be done is now with you to do, and as the matter is between ourselves and you have better information of the situation of the enemy and

86. William Duer.

87. On January 22 Washington wrote Duer that it was necessary "That One Months Provision for One hundred Men should be always kept on hand at Fort Herkimer and at Fort Rensalaer on the Mohawk River," and ordering such supply to be laid in. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*. The letter sent is in the New York Historical Society.

88. On Oswego, N. Y.

difficulty in getting at them than I; I have only to request you to act from your best judgment under a firm perswasion that the enterprise in contemplation was even better known than it is no imputation could fall on you for having laid it aside if the difficulties in the way, or a want of information should

be greater than appeared at first view. Let me hear from you and if possible by the 3d. or 4th. of next Month. I am etc.⁸⁹

[M.L.]

89. Washington wrote on the address cover: "The Qr. Master at Albany is to forward this with dispatch."

To CAPTAIN RICHARD SILL

Head Quarters, January 22, 1783.

Sir: I am to acknowledge the receipt of your several Letters of the 11th. 14th and 17th Jany one of them informing me of the Death of Majr. Genl Lord Stirling, whose loss is universally regretted by the Army, and I am exceeding sorry that it was not possible to shew those marks of respect at his funeral, which were due to his Lordship's Rank and Merit. I am &c.⁹⁰

90. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Head Quarters, January 22, 1783.

Dear Smith: I have received yours of the 20th. and laid the subject of it before the General, who is clearly of opinion, as Congress have left no latitude for partial exchanges in their Act of the 16 of Octr. that it is not in his power to give any discretionary Orders and it would I am persuaded be disagreeable to urge the matter previous however to that Act it is recollected application had been made by Genl Knox for the exchange of an Officer (I think it was Lt Sutherland)⁹¹ to which the Genls assent was given. Should Mr Sutherland appear to be the Gentleman alluded to, the exchange may be considered as having been carried into execution at the before mentioned time, and an Officer of ours liberated in consequence. As to the hardships experienced by other individuals, in consequence of a long captivity, all we can do is to feel for them; it rests alone with their own party to liberate them by entering into a Genl Cartel.

Mrs. Washington requests me to thank you in her name for the Almanac, we all remember you as we ought, particularly your friend.

P. S. Official Accts of the *Evacuation* of Charles Town have arrived at Phil. by Majr Burnet, previous to which Genl Greene had effected a universal exchange of all Prisoners in that Quarter.⁹²

91. Lieut. Alexander Sutherland, of the British Engineers.

92. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D. Humphreys."

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL JEREMIAH OLNEY

Head Quarters, January 24, 1783.

Sir: By the enclosed Act of Congress of the 31st Decr. you will observe, to what period the reduction of the Lines therein named, is postponed; Nothing, I suppose, will prevent its being carried into execution at that time, except the Regts should be previously compleated to the Establishment ordered in the Resolution of the 7th of Augst last, I thought it expedient to give

you this information, and to desire you will advise me of the measures which have been taken, and the prospect there is of compleating the Rhode Island Regt; as I have not heard one word from the State on the subject. I am etc.⁹⁸

[R.I.H.S.]

To MAJOR WILLIAM SCOTT OR OFFICER COMMANDING THE NEW HAMPSHIRE BRIGADE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 24, 1783.

Sir: Upon observing the naked and forlorn situation of your Recruits of last year, and in general the indifferent appearance which the whole Brigade made yesterday under Arms, I am induced to order the two Regts. to be immediately put in perfect uniform; to obtain the necessary instructions for which, you will without loss of time apply to Head Quarters.

This measure is adopted not only with a design to put the two Regts of N Hampshire at least on a level with the other Troops, but even to give them such an advantage in point of appearance as

will atone for the inconveniencies they have suffered by so long a detachment from the Army the disadvantage incident to which state, have hitherto been

98. In the writing of David Humphreys.

their apology; but, Sir, I shall expect from this Moment, that no favorable allowances will be required by them, but on the contrary that a spirit of emulation and passion to excel in discipline as well as appearance will prevail amongst your Troops in so great a degree, as to entitle them to honorable Notice, instead of public reprehension at a future Inspection; for I propose to see them again under Arms in the course of this Winter. I beg you to communicate the purport of this Letter to all the Officers of your Line, and to inform them that I shall rely upon their most zealous and unremitting exertions to put the Troops under their Orders, on the most respectable footing, before the opening of the next Campaign. I am etc.⁹⁹

To BRIGADIER GENERAL MOSES HAZEN

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 25, 1783.

Sir: I was yesterday favoured with your Letter of the 20th.

There appears to be so much force in the reasons you give for extending the furloughs in your Regiment beyond the limitation of General Orders, that I shall not hesitate to grant you that authority, only desiring you will use it with the utmost

99. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

On January 24 Washington wrote to Lieut. Col. Edward Antill that he was surprised he had not joined his corps and "directing that you forthwith repair to and remain with the Regt. to which you belong." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

discretion and confine the indulgence to characters which are absolutely to be relied upon and to cases of the first necessity, your regard for the reputation of your Regiment and zeal for the service I am satisfied will prevent this permission from being abused.

I thank you very sincerely for your exertions to put a stop to the illicit trade with the Enemy, and I have to request, that you will not remit your endeavours to effect that important purpose. Should the fact of attempting to carry any Provisions to the Enemy be proved against Baldwin⁵ and his party

on their Trial. I do not see what can save them from an infamous and exemplary death; by the late Law of Jersey. I am certain nothing ought to; and indeed it will be in vain for the Military power (tho' earnestly called upon by Congress) to expect to destroy this pernicious intercourse, unless the Civil will rigidly carry their own Laws into execution.⁶

By the enclosed you will see the sentiments of all the General Officers now present with the Army on the subject of your Memorial; in consequence of which, if the Memorialists choose to prosecute the Judge Advocate⁷ before a Military Court, it will be necessary to reduce the Allegations to specific Charges, and transmit them to me without delay, that an investigation may immediately take place. I shall suspend the publication of the Proceedings in the case of Major Reid,⁸ until I hear the farther determination of those concerned, which I desire may be at as early a day as possible. In all events it will be at the option

5. Elias Baldwin. He was formerly a lieutenant in Spencer's Additional Continental regiment.

6. To this point the text is from the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress The remainder of the letter is from an extract, in the writing of David Humphreys, so labeled. The P. S. is also from the Varick Transcripts.

7. Lieut. Thomas Edwards.

8. Maj. James Randolph Reid.

of the Gentlemen who consider themselves aggrieved in the present instance to avail themselves of the ulterior expedient pointed out by the Board of General Officers.⁹ I am etc.

P. S. No furloughs must on any account extend beyond the 15th of April.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL EDWARD ANTILL

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 25, 1783.

Sir: The several Papers you honored me with this mornng. have been duly laid before the Commander in Chief, and I have it in command from him to inform you, that as the Arrangement of Issues to the Canadian Refugees has originated from and been immediately established by the secy at War, any Alterations or innovations, in it, he thinks ought necessarily to come from the same quarter; and Gen

Lincoln being now soon expected from the Eastward, His Excellency conceives it proper to refer you to him, for his decision and Orders on the subject. I am etc.¹⁰

9. Brigadier General Hazen and the officers who brought the charges against Major Reid considered that through the conduct of the Judge Advocate General "They have been deprived of the Redress They conceived They had a right to expect." The expedient pointed out was that if the uprightness of the Judge Advocate appeared after investigation, "the only Redress the parties who Suppose themselves Injured can Obtain, will be, an Inquiry into their Conduct before a Court, convened for that purpose, at which Major Reid might be ordered to Attend, to Support His Allegations." This report is in the *Washington Papers* under date of Jan. 23, 1783.

10. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D. Humphrys A D C."

To MAJOR LEMUEL TRESCOTT

Head Quarters, January 25, 1783.

Sir: Your two Letters one to Colo Humphreys and the other to the General were recd; the Contractors say they will instantly send a person to supply your detachment with Provision.

His Excellency directs that Prisoners of War Exchanged or on Parole need not in future be sent to head Quarters; this instruction to be given to the Officer who relieves you. I am &c.¹²

***To MAJOR THOMAS LANSDALE**

Newburgh, January 25, 1783.

Sir: I was hurt yesterday at the appearance of the Detachment under your Command; as I conceive you must have been, if you viewed and drew a comparison between it, and the Regiment on your Left. The Clothes of the latter, have been upon the Soldier's backs almost, if not quite, Twelve Months, while it is scarce Six since any part of yours has been issued.

Dirt and Trash too, of every denomination, was so liberally strewed, even, upon your Parade; and immediately

12. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "B[enjamin] W[alker]."

before the doors of your Hutts; that it was difficult to avoid the filth.

[The true distinction, Sir, between what is called a fine Regiment, and an indifferent one, will ever, upon investigation, be found to originate in, and depend upon the care, or the inattention, of the Officers belonging to them. That Regiment, whose Officers are watchful of their Men, and attentative to their wants, who will see that proper use is made, and a proper account taken, of whatever is drawn for them;] and that Regimental and Company Inspections are frequent, in order to examine into the state of their Arms, Ammunition, Clothing and other necessities to prevent loss or embezzlement. Who will see that the Soldiers Clothes are well made, kept whole, and Clean. That their Hurts are swept and purified; that their Provisns is in good order well Cooked, and Eat at proper hours; that the Trash, and all kinds of Offal is either burnt, or buried; That Vaults or proper necessities are erected, and every person punished who shall on these occasions go elsewhere in the Camp. Those Officers I say who attend to these things, and their duty strictly enjoins it on them, [give health, comfort, and a Military pride to their Men] which fires and fits them for everything great and noble. It is by this means the character of a Regiment is exalted, while Sloth inattention and neglect produce the reverse of these in every particular and must infallibly lessen the reputation of the Corps.

I observe with concern that none of your Officers had Espontoons, that some of them were even without

Side Arms, and of those that had, some were so remiss in their duty as not to know they were to salute with them; from these considerations I am led to point you to the Genl. Orders of the 9th. of August and 1st. of September; And to recommend in pointed terms to your Officers the necessity and advantage of making themselves perfectly master of the Printed "Regulations for the order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States." Ignorance of them, cannot nor will it be, any excuse; while it may bring disgrace on the Corps they belong to, and produce much confusion in the Army, if they should form and manœuvre with it.

As it is the first time I have seen them under Arms, and some allowance is to be made for the rawness of the Corps, I will substitute admonition in place of reprehension; but it is my desire that you should inform the officers I shall expect to see a very great alteration in the police of the Corps and appearance of the Men before the next Inspection. The Soldiers of your detachment, with a few exceptions, would look very well in the line of the Army if their Clothes were in good order, well fitted, and the men made to appear Neat and Clean. I am etc.

To DAVID BROOKS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 26, 1783.

Sir: The Commander in Chief is pleased to Order that compleat suits of Uniform Clothing shall be immediately issued to the two Regts of New Hampshire agreeably to the Returns which will be made by them. It is also His Excellency's desire that you will assort the Clothing to be issued into different sizes, in such manner as will be most beneficial to the Public and convenient for fitting the several Articles to the Troops for whom they are intended. I am etc.¹³

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 27, 1783.

Sir: I have to request you will, as soon as possible, give me an Estimate of all those things in your Department (noting the expence of each in the best manner you are able) which will be requisite to enable our Army to take the field and prosecute vigorous operations, in case the War should continue another Campaign; In this Estimate I would have comprehended

13. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphreys Aid de Camp."

particularly the means of transportation by land and Water, viz Horses and Teams for the Artillery and Baggage, Forage, Wheel Carriages, Boats, Artificers, Waggoners and Watermen; also Tools, Tents, Camp Equipage of all kinds and in general every Article that comes properly within your Province.

It is likewise my wish, Sir, that you would exhibit at the same time a state of your Department annexed to the before. mentioned Estimate in such manner as to shew at a single view, which of those Articles the Public is, or may be possessed of, from your present resources; and what specific Articles must be provided, by ways and Means which are yet to be devised.

I can scarcely expect your Estimate to be perfectly accurate in all respects, it will be sufficient for my purpose, to have the best calculation you can make, as founded upon the established Allowances, the current Prices, and your own experience. As to the number of Troops for whom provision is to be made, I can only observe, that altho, in your present Estimate it may be sufficient to include eight complete Regts in addition to the force now in this quarter, yet in case offensive Operations should

be ultimately resolved on, a very considerable number of Tents, and many other Articles would be required for the Militia that must then be called into service. I am, etc.

P. S. Upon farther consideration I shall have occasion for duplicate

Estimates, which I desire you to have made out accordingly. Three new Marques will be wanted for the Gentlemen of my family next Campaign. and exclusive of these one to be exchanged for that now in my possession as I mentioned to you.

I must also desire you to take the earliest opportunity the weather may afford to have all the Boats that are repairable put in the best order for service; as I propose to accustom the Troops, as soon as the river is navigable, to the Manœuvres of embarkation and debarkation.¹⁴

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Head Quarters, January 28, 1783.

Dr Sir: I have received your two Letters of the 23 and 27 instant.

It seems strange that such a number of Marine Prisoners should be sent on without any provision being made for their subsistence on the way. I will mention the circumstance to Mr. Morris, and will immediately give directions to the Contractors to provide against such exigencies, so far as regards your Post.

The Letters for New York are returned and may be forwarded; the Official Letters of Mr. Morris or the Comy of Naval Prisoners need not be sent here in future. I am &c.¹⁷

14. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

17. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To WILLIAM DUER AND DANIEL PARKER

Head Quarters, January 28, 1783.

Gentlemen: It has happened that Prisoners of War passing to or from New York arrive at the Post of Dobbs ferry and for want of a Commissary there, are greatly distressed for Provision; an instance of this kind now exists: upwards of Sixty Prisoners have been sent there by Mr. Morris to go to New York; they have wanted Provision on the road and on their arrival at Dobbs ferry could meet no supply and should they not go in immediately, their distress must greatly increase; such instances may frequently happen. I must therefore desire that some measures may be fallen upon to remedy so great an inconvenience. I am &c.¹⁸

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 29, 1783.

My dear Sir: On the 18th of Decr. I wrote a long Letter, advising you very fully of the state of affairs in this part of the Continent; since that time I have had the pleasure to receive your three favors of the 6th 10th and 19th of the same Month.

18. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

I scarcely need assure you that the intelligence communicated in your last of the liberation of the southern States from the power of the Enemy, has afforded us infinite satisfaction, and that the event must be attended with very interesting consequences, whatever the future intentions of the British Cabinet may be; permit me to felicitate you sincerely on your agency in producing it and to request you will make known to the Officers and Soldiers of your Army, my entire approbation of their conduct; the inclosed Orders which I have caused to be published to this Army, will be a permanent testimony of my sentiments and feelings on the occasion.

Convinced that your knowledge of the Country and military judgment would dictate with propriety what number of Troops ought to be continued at present with the southern States. It was my intention in the Letter of the 23d of Sepr. and those of a subsequent date to submit the matter almost entirely to your discretion. I have now to approve of the arrangements which you have made; especially, as in the present unsettled state of affairs, The detention of the Corps mentioned in your Letter of the 10th of Decr. may be of utility there, and will not be attended with any ill consequences elsewhere; but I think it essential to acquaint you, that in case the War should continue, the Post of New York be held by the Enemy, and offensive operations be attempted against it, we shall stand in need of the whole regular force that can be collected from all the States northward of the

Carolinas; upon a presumption that these things may happen, I shall wish you to put in motion all the Troops above alluded to (except the Virginia Regt of Horse and the Legion) as soon as you shall judge the tranquility of Georgia and the Carolinas is sufficiently restored to admit of their being withdrawn; for as to our being able totally to prevent the desultory and predatory incursions of the Enemy (if they should have a disposition to exert themselves in that way) I do not think our whole Army competent to the object. I conceive, however, that Cavalry are much preferable for such services than Infantry, and it is for this reason, I shall not object to your retaining the two Corps before specified, so long as there may be occasion for them.

Unacquainted as I am, with the particular local situation of Charles Town, I cannot undertake to give a decisive opinion with respect to the fortifications proper for that place, but so far as I am able to form a judgment at this distance, I am induced from the reasons you give, as well as from my general knowledge of it, to accord fully in sentiment with you, on the subject.

I am very anxious to see the King of Great Britains speech to his Parliament, with the consequent Debates and Determinations, as I imagine we shall be able from these to form a better judgment respecting War or Peace than from any thing we have hitherto seen; indeed the Commission, enabling Mr. Oswald to treat with us, as "the United States of America" kindles a brighter ray of hope than any which has hitherto

shone upon us, and altho it should not light us so soon as some fondly imagine to the wished for period of all our toils and all our dangers, yet it will remain like a fixed luminary by which to steer our future course to the harbours of Peace and Independence.

There is nothing besides of news since I wrote you last, except the death of my Lord Stirling which happened at Albany on the 14th inst. and the promotion of Colonels Greaton, Putnam and Dayton to the Rank of Brigadiers. I am etc.²²

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, February 1, 1783.

Dear Sir: I am to desire that you will take the earliest Opportunity to furnish me with an Estimate of every thing in the Ordnance and Artillery Department which will be necessary to carry on an Offensive and vigorous Campaign; considering the Siege of New York as a probable Operation, this Estimate to be on the same principles as those of 80 and 81; Noting such of the Articles as are

already in our possession or within our reach, to shew what is to be procured by ways and means yet to be devised. I am &c²⁴

[MS.H.S.]

22. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

24. In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To WILLIAM DUER

Head Quarers, Newburgh, February 1, 1783.

Sir: The Severity of the Climate, and of the duty of the Troops, [particularly when they are Scouting] at the Out Posts on the Mohawk River, renders it absolutely necessary that they should some times be supplied with a little Spirits. I must therefore desire you, without delay, to procure for them two or three Hogsheads of Rum or other Spirits, subject to the orders of Colonel Willet.

If in doing this any additional expence is incurred which is not warranted by the Contract, it must be paid rather than the Troops should Suffer. It has some how been omitted to make provision for the Subsistence of the Officers of Colonel Willet's Regiment

'till the Secy at War's directions can be had, they must be supplied with Provisions to the Amount of the subsistence allowed their respective ranks. I am &c.²⁵

To BRIGADIER GENERAL RUFUS PUTNAM

Head Quarters, February 2, 1783.

Sir: Mr. Hobby having claimed as his property a Negro Man now serving as a soldier in the 3d Masstts Regt. you will be pleased to order a Court of Enquiry, consisting of five as respectable Officers as can be appointed in your Brigade, to examine into the validity of the claim, the manner in which the person in question came into service, and the propriety of his being discharged or retained in service, having inquired into the matter with all the attending circumstances, they will

report to you their opinion thereon, which you will communicate to me as soon as conveniently may be. I am etc.

P. S. All concerned should be notified to attend.²⁶

25. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

On February 1 Washington wrote to Brig. Gen. Moses Hazen that he would be notified of the time of proceedings in the trial of the Judge Advocate, with permission to attend. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

26. In the writing of David Humphreys. From the original in Marietta College, Ohio.

***To LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARINUS WILLETT**

Newburgh, February 2, 1783.

Dear Sir: Your letters of the 28th ulto From Fort Renselaer, and 30th from Albany both came to my hands last Night.

One hundred and fifty Blankets (all that are in the Clothiers Store at this place) and twenty five Axes are now packing to be sent to you; and the Qr Master Genl will endeavor, if possible, to have them at Albany on the 4th.; from whence you must take measures to get them to Fort Herkimer in time. If any of Olneys Men (on the Enterprise you are going) should be in greater need than yours, they must be supplied out of this parcel, that the whole may be as comfortable as it is in my power to make them.

I do not send Medicines, Bandages and Instruments because it would take some time to procure them, and not a moment is to be lost in dispatching the Sleighs with the Blankets, that they may arrive in time; and because (tho' I wish you not to be unprovided) it is to be remembered, and I wish to impress it upon you, that, if you do not succeed by Surprise the attempt will be unwarrantable. The Wounds received in the former, more than probable, will be trifling.

Every plausible deception should be used to

mask the object of your Expedition to the latest moment. Your movements afterwards should be quick, and pains must be taken to discover, by tracts or otherwise, whether intelligence has out gone you. If you should be fully convinced of this, the further prosecution of the Enterprise would not only be fruitless, but might prove injurious.

To an Officer of your care, attention and foresight, I shall not dwell upon circumspection and caution. The consequence of a Surprise (not only to the party you command, but to your own reputation) is too serious and self evident, to stand in need of illustration. A Vast deal depends upon having good Guides to Oswego; and every thing, in a manner, upon persons who can carry you without hesitation or difficulty, to the points of Attack when you arrive there. How far a few Indians would be useful to you for the first purpose; and how far they are to be confided in, you, from a better knowledge of them than I possess, must judge and act accordingly.

Guides who are pressed into the Service must be well secured, lest they desert from you in a critical moment.

From having recourse to the Almanack I am led to Wish that the Night for the Attack may not be delayed beyond the 12th Instt.; as I find that the sitting of the Moon (even at that time) approaches so near day light, that the intervening space is short; and consequently must be very critical; as accidents unforeseen, and consequently unprovided for, may embarrass your movements towards the Works and retard the Attack of them

beyond the hour designed, to the entire disappointment of the plan. Let me caution you therefore against being too exact in your allowance of time for your last Movement; reflect that you can always waste time, but never recover it. Halts, or slow Marching will accomplish the first, but nothing can effect the latter, consequently in such an Enterprise as yours want of time will be a certain defeat.

Let your disposition be such, that in any circumstances your retreat to your Sleigh, and afterwards with them, may be secure.

If success should crown your endeavors, let your first object be to secure your Prisoners, whom you will treat with lenity and kindness; suffering no Insult or abuse to be offered to them with impunity. Your next object must be to destroy the Works, Vessels (if any should be found there), and every thing else that cannot be brought away. Such Works as cannot be consumed by Fire, nor easily razed by the labor of the Soldiers, must be, if practicable, blown up. In a Word they are to be effectually demolished, if it is within the Compass of your power to do it.

Whatever is found in, or about the Works belonging to the Enemy, and is agreeable to the Rules and Customs of War, humanity and generosity; shall be given to the Party as the reward of their Gallantry and fatigue; to be distributed in proportion to their pay; the drivers of Sleighs, if Countrymen, should receive a part as an extra encouragement for their Services.

Make me the earliest report (if successful from the Scene of Action, at any rate on your return) of your progress, and the Issue of the Expedition. The Inclosed Letter will shew you what I have done respecting Spirits and Subsistence for your Officers. Seal it before delivery, and make your own arrangements with the Contractor. I begin to doubt the practicability of my being up. My sentiments however you are possessed of, as well as all the Aid I can give. Your own judgment must govern where my Instructions are deficient. I heartily wish you honor and success, and am etc.²⁷

[M.L.]

To MAJOR WILLIAM BARBER

Head Quarters, February 3, 1783.

Sir: The Commander in Chief will have occasion immediately for duplicate abstracts of the Musters of the *Whole Army*, made out from the last Rolls in your possession, exhibiting accurately, the total numbers borne thereon, and the different terms of service for which all the Men are engaged, in such a manner as that the whole may be seen at a single glance. I am etc.²⁸

27. An impress warrant, dated February 2, empowering Willett to impress from the inhabitants such a number of sleighs and horses as may be requisite was inclosed by Washington in a brief note dated February 13. The originals of both the warrant and note are in the Morgan Library.

28. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphrys A. D. C."

To MAJOR GENERAL LOUIS LE BÈQUE DU PORTAIL

Head Quarters, February 4, 1783.

Sir: I am favored with your Letter of the 29 January inclosing Copy of Maj Villefranches Memorial to Congress.

The Testimonials already in the possession of Maj Villefranche will shew the very high opinion I entertain of his merit and services. His Memorial meets my approbation and if Congress should think proper to comply with it the circumstance will afford me pleasure. I am &c.²⁹

To BRIGADIER GENERAL RUFUS PUTNAM

Head Quarters, February 4, 1783.

Sir: By the inclosed Letter from Mr Hobby,³⁰ it appears that he wishes to suggest some new Matters which he supposes would operate in procuring a Discharge for the Negro Man claimed by him. Whereupon, His Excellency the Commander in Chief is pleased to direct, that you will cause the Proceedings to be revised by the same Court, in order that they may be enabled to take into consideration any additional circumstances or reasons

29. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

30. Capt. Jonathan Hobby, of the Third Massachusetts Regiment.

which may be exhibited by the Claimant and report thereon. I have the honor etc.³¹

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 5, 1783.

Dear Sir: A few days since, I recd your favor of the 25th. of January. There is such an absolute dearth of News here, that I cannot undertake to give you a single syllable in return for what you was so good as to send me.

Without amusements or avocations, I am spending another Winter (I hope it will be the last that I shall be kept from returning to domestic life) amongst these rugged and dreary Mountains. I have however the satisfaction of seeing the Troops better coverd, better Clothed and better fed, than they have ever been in any former Winter Quarters. And this circumstance alone would make any situation tolerable to me. In a little time I hope to turn their duty into an Amusement, by awakening again the spirit of Emulation and love of Military Parade and glory, which was so conspicuous the

last Campaign. I shall (as soon as the Weather will permit in the Spring) expect to see the General Officers daily on Horseback at the Head of their Commands, teaching them by precept and example,

31. The draft is in the writing of and the letter sent was signed by David Humphreys.

every thing that is reputable and glorious in the profession of Arms; let me hint in Season, I presume you will not chuse to be absent, or second in exertion on these occasions, to any of your brother Officers.

In the mean time I shall strive to while away this Season, in laying a foundation for those things. Tomorrow being the Anniversary of the Alliance with France we shall have a Military Exhibition. There will be a Review and fue de joie and afterwards a Cold Collation at the new Public Building. With great regard etc.³⁷

[MS.H.S.]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL PETER MUHLENBERG

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 5, 1783.

Sir: I have been duly favored with your Letter of the 13th of January and have written to Governor Harrison that it was much to be wished, the Obstacles mentioned by you might be removed, and that measures might be taken during the Winter, for forming the Troops now in the State with the Detachment, which I imagined would be sent back by General Green from So Carolina, into a compleat Regt or Regts, in such a manner as that they might be properly appointed and fit for service at the opening of the next Campaign. I doubt not you will contribute your utmost exertions towards accomplishing so interesting

37. In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

and desirable an object. With great regard etc.³⁸

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Head Quarters, February 6, 1783.

Sir: In a late Excursion of the Militia on the other side under Cap Williams,⁴⁵ John Paulding, one of the Persons who took Major André, was made Prisoner with some others. His friends, apprehensive for his safety, have made intercession with the General on his behalf and, tho' His Excellency does not approve the excursions of these people, yet in consideration

38. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

45. Capt. Daniel Williams, of Dutchess County (N. Y.) militia.

of the former services Mr. Paulding has rendered the Country, and as we have in the Provost Guard, four Prisoners taken by them some time since. He has been pleased to consent that those four Prisoners be sent in on Parole and you will desire the Enemy to send out on Parole for them the within mentioned Persons.⁴⁶ The Prisoners to be sent in will be forwarded from hence tomorrow Morning. I have the honor etc.⁴⁷

To COLONEL MICHAEL JACKSON OR OFFICER COMMANDING EIGHTH MASSACHUSETTS REGIMENT

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 7, 1783.

Sir: I am excessively sorry to be under the

46. Walker wrote again to Lieutenant Colonel Smith, this same day (February 6), that 6 prisoners would be sent down for parole exchange, instead of 4. Walker's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

47. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "B[enjamin] W[alker]."

disagreeable necessity of informing you that the 8th Masstts. Regt. was one of the Corps alluded to in the orders of this day, as not having made that elegant appearance at the Review yesterday which was expected. Let me entreat and conjure you, Sir, in the most forcible terms, and let me enjoin it upon both Officers [and Men] that the greatest possible exertions should be made to put the Regt in a more respectable condition before another Review: in order to save me the irksome task of carrying into execution what I have promised in the orders of this day and then the otherwise inevitable disgrace of being held up to public view in a disagreeable manner.

These observations will be understood to apply only to the Battalion Companies; for in justice to the Lt Compy I must say that I thought very few, if any, in the Line made a more soldier-like figure. I am etc.⁴⁸

To COLONEL LEWIS NICOLA

February 7, 1783.

Sir: I return the Certificate respecting Loudon Sawyer.⁴⁹

48. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

49. In Nicola's letter of February 6 this name is given as Lowdon Sayer. The certificate seems to have been to grant him entrance to the Invalid regiment. Nicola's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

Of those Men who have neglected to Join or have deserted

and may hereafter come in, such only as are fit for duty must be reced, the others can have no claim. I am &c.⁵⁰

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL EZRA NEWHALL OR OFFICER COMMANDING FIFTH MASSACHUSETTS REGIMENT

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 8, 1783.

Sir: I am excessively sorry to be under the disagreeable necessity of informing you that the 5th. Masstts Regt was one of the Corps alluded to in the Orders of this day, as not having made that elegant appearance at the Review yesterday, which was expected. Let me entreat and conjure you, Sir, in the most forcible terms and let me enjoin it upon both Officers and men, that the greatest possible exertions should be made to put the Regt in a more respectable condition before another Review: in order to save me the irksome task of carrying into execution what I have promised in the orders of this day, and then the otherwise inevitable disgrace of being held up to public view in a disagreeable manner I am etc.⁵⁴

50. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

54. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To MAJOR THOMAS LANSDALE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 7, 1783.

Sir: It gave me very sensible pleasure to observe at the Review yesterday the very great alteration for the better in the appearance of the Maryland Detachment, which had taken place, since I last saw them under Arms. Be pleased to make known to the Officers and Men the satisfaction I experienced on this occasion; and at the same time to acquaint them, that I anticipate the day, when this Detachment will rival if not surpass in excellence the Oldest and best Troops in the American service.

[I feel as much pleasure in passing this encomium on it as I did pain at writing my former Letter of the 25th. ulto. on the contrary appearance of your Corps &c.] I am etc.⁵¹

To DAVID BROOKS

Head Quarters, February 7, 1783.

Sir: An Order is given for the Regimental Pay Mastrs to apply for their proportion of Blankets.

General Hazen's Regt is to be included

51. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The portion in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

in all distributions of Cloathg unless you shall receive particular Orders to the contrary. For upon that General Officer's representing, that there had been an unequal and partial distribution of Cloathg relatively to his Corps and applying to know how the wants of the Regt should be supplied, he was referred by the Commander in chief to your Department with particular directions to make application to you and exhibit the proper Returns; by a comparison of which the Issues made in

Philadelphia, His Excellency supposed you would be able to do ample justice to the Corps. I am
etc.⁵²

To MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 10, 1783.

Sir: Your favor of the 9th covering an application from Brigad. General Putnam for leave of absence until the 15th of April has been handed to me this morning.

I beg you will be pleased, Sir, to inform that Officer I do not consider myself at liberty to comply with his request, for it appears to me (considering the small number of General Officers with the Army, Genl. Howe having also in consequence of a previous promise just before his application obtained leave of absence) that it would be absolutely improper and injurious to

52. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphrys A. D. C."

service, under the present circumstances to give the permission he sollicit; and that I cannot be answerable for a faithful discharge of the trust reposed in me by my Country, unless a proper number of Officers are constantly retained with the Army to pay that incessant attention to the Police of it, which is indispensably necessary; this, I think, will be sufficient for his satisfaction, without mentioning a consideration which only affects me personally, and that is, the additional and almost insupportable weight of business and trouble which the absence of so many General Officers continues to impose upon me.

But taking the matter in another point of view, and I cannot help expressing my surprize that General Putnam, who has been absent the whole Campaign (for however important and proper the business may have been on which he was employed, the Troops of his Command suffered not the less for the want of his presence) and who has been in Camp but a few Weeks; should imagine his services could be dispensed with until the 15th of April. If the Law Suit he mentions renders it essential he should be absent about the last of March, it is probable he may be spared from the Army with less inconvenience then, than at present, as some of the Genl Officers now absent will have returned before that time. I am &c.⁵⁶

[N.Y.H.S.]

56. In the writing of David Humphreys. In the draft, which is also by Humphreys, there is added at the end, in the writing of Washington, "and I shall have no objection to it."

To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

February 10, 1783.

Dr Sir: I am favored with your Letter of Yesterday. When you mentiond to me the other day the probability of your Affairs requiring your presence at Boston, I believe I told you that if there was an absolute necessity for it, leave should be granted. It is painful for me to refuse an Officer any⁵⁷ Indulgence it is in my power to grant, but something is due to other considerations, the good of service and my own reputation requires me not to suffer the Troops to be left entirely destitute of Officers and you must acknowledge that too great a proportion of the Genl Officers is already absent. Genl Gates and yourself are now the only Major Generals in Camp and Genl Gates has already informed me that Mrs. Gates's health was in such a state when the last letters left her, that it is probable the next Post will inform him of her being in extreme danger, in that case it would be almost impossible to deny him permission to visit her. Of the Six Brigadiers, whose Brigades are on this Ground, only two remain in Camp and one of them too requests to begone; thus, am I put to the pain of refusing the indulgencies which Gentlemen require or of leaving the whole of the Troops with only one General Officer.

I mention these things to shew you, that nothing but *the most urgent necessity* can justify my

57. The word "reasonable" is erased.

permitting you to be absent, and to induce you to make your stay from Camp as short as possible.

As it is of consequence that the business to be laid before the board of General Officers ordered Yesterday should be decided immediately, I have to request you will not leave Camp before it is finished. I am &c.⁵⁸

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Head Quarters, February 10, 1783.

Sir: You will proceed immediately with a flag

58. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

to Paulus Hook⁵⁹ and from thence to New York to make the necessary Arrangement in your Department with the British Corny of Prisoners at that place.

One servant is permitted to attend you into New York and the Officer and Party mentioned in the Margin to escort you to the British Out Post.⁶⁰

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, February 10, 1783.

Sir: I have it in charge from the Commander in Chief to acknowledge the rect of your two Letters of this date addressed to him. In a Country where the Qrs are in general so indifferent, the climate so cold, and fuel (within a short distance) so plenty, The General thinks it would scarcely be necessary or proper to give a limitation to the allowance of Wood for the Genl Officers, especially as the quantity required will fluctuate greatly according to the Company they entertain and other accidental circumstances; and as it is to be presumed they will never make use of more than they have actual occasion for; as to the allowance for other Officers, who are not in Huts (and of whom the number must be inconsiderable) he considers it an

59. The Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress spell this "Powles Hook."

60. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

Smith had written (February 8) that a cutter from Europe was "anxiously" expected at New York, "on the 6th 60 Guineas were laid to 30, at the Coffee House, in favour of a peace upon her arrival."

object not of sufficient magnitude to require regulation; but he approves extremely the Idea you suggest of Regimental Magazines and will Issue an order on the subject.

I am farther instructed to inform you, His Excellency consents that you should go to Philadelphia for the purposes you have mentioned, and return at the time you have appointed which it is his express

wish and desire you will do whether the Money or any part of it can be obtained or not. I have the honor etc.⁶¹

To COLONEL LEWIS NICOLA

Head Quarters, February 11, 1783.

Sir: A Board of General Officers were appointed in the Orders of the 9th. to assemble on thursday next at such place as should be appointed by Major Genl Gates, to take into consideration certain Points contained in a Memorial of Brigr. Genl Hazen relative to the Proceedings of Courts Martini &c. It is now the Commander Chiefs request that you will attend the sd Board to aid and assist in investigating the subject, and digesting the report thereon. I have the honor etc.⁶⁸

61. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphrys A. D. C."

68. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D. Humphrys A. D. C."

To THE BOARD OF GENERAL OFFICERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 12, 1783.

Gentlemen: I do inclose you a Letter and Memorial of the 13th of January last from Brigadier General Hazen in behalf of himself and twenty four Officers of his regiment remonstrating generally on the want of System and some general established rules in the Proceedings of Courts Martial, by which means the innocent have been at some times injured and the Guilty escaped the punishment due to their Crimes; And then pointing out Cases in which they conceive that for want of some certain uniform rules the Determinations and Proceedings of General Courts Martial have on different occasions been diametrically opposite, to the exclusion of themselves from redress for supposed injuries received from Major Reid; and praying that for some supposed Misconduct and partiality in Mr. Edwards the Judge Advocate the Proceedings of a late General Courts Martial of which the late Colonel, now General Putnam was President might be set aside and that I would direct an inquiry into the matters complained of and a full and fair Trial of Major Reid on the Charges by them exhibited against him.

This Memorial as far as it respected Major Reids Trial was referred to a Board of General Officers of which Major General Gates was President which Board on the 23d of January

did report to me as follows to wit

We are of Opinion that the Conduct of the Judge Advocate upon that occasion should be investigated in the first place; As, if it appears by such investigation that through his Neglect or Partiality the Court were not possessed of every knowledge and Light which could be thrown on the Case before them, a revision of the Proceedings by the same Court, or a new Trial of Major Reid by another Court must be the natural consequence, that should the uprightness of the Judge Advocate fully appear upon such an investigation being had we think no Appeal can be allowed; and that the only redress the parties who suppose themselves injured can obtain will be an inquiry into their Conduct before a Court convened for that purpose, at which Major Reid might be ordered to attend, to support his Allegations.

I am now to inform you Gentlemen that in consequence of the receipt of a Copy of the preceeding report by Brig. General Hazen he has for himself and the Officers of his regiment transmitted me the inclosed Letter of the 29th January covering a number of Charges of equal date against Mr. Edwards the Judge Advocate of the Army, also inclosed.

In order to prevent a similar complaint against so important a part of our Military System as the Channel appointed for the equal distribution of public justice to every Member of the Army, on account of a defect of some certain rules for the Government of General Courts Martial and their Officer the

Judge Advocate; I wish you to take up the matter on a General Scale and that you will report to me what in general cases is and ought to be the business of a Judge Advocate, precisely delineating his duties as well with relation to the Court as with respect to the Accuser and accused.

It is my wish also that you will take up the Charges exhibited against Mr. Edwards and on a review of the Memorial of the 13th determine whether any and which of them as specified in the Letter and inclosure of the 29th, *if true* are really military charges And for which Mr. Edwards now at the head of the Department and as Acting Judge Advocate against Major Reid is amenable to a Court Martial; And that you will then enter into a full investigation of the truth of the matters which you shall suppose to be objects of Charge against Mr. Edwards and report thereon without delay that I may be enabled to determine whether a General Court Martial will be necessary for his Trial, or the proceedings of the General Court Martial against Major Reid should be approved and General Hazen

and his Officers referred to the alternative pointed out in the report of the board of General Officers above mentioned. I have the honor etc.⁷¹

71. In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL EDWARD HAND

Head Quarters, February 14, 1783.

Sir: The Commander in Chief has reced information, that some Waggon are on the road to Camp, laden with money for the Army; they were Escorted by a Guard from Philadelphia to Pompton, where a Guard of twenty Men took charge of them and was to bring them to Ringwood, if possible, this Evening.

His Excellency desires, that for the farther Security of the Treasure a Guard of a Captain and fifty Men may be detached *immediately* to relieve Genl Hazens Guard and escort the Waggon to Camp. I am &c.⁸⁰

To THE OFFICER COMMANDING AT DOBBS FERRY

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 15, 1783.

Sir: Capt. West and Mr. Manga⁸⁴ have permission to make application for liberty to go into the City of New York to distribute a sum of Money (about £200 L.M.⁸⁵) among the Naval Prisoners belonging to the Town of Salem in Massachusetts, which being procured, they may proceed to the City, if they cannot

80. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "B[enjamin] W[alker]."

84. Capt. Samuel West and Peter Mangé.

85. Varick's writers translate this "Lawful Money."

obtain that permission, or do not choose to wait for an Ansr. you will send a Flag of Truce with the Money to the Enemy's Outpost, addressed to the particular care of Colonel Smith, who is to be

requested to cause the sd. Money to be paid to such Marine Prisoners, and in such proportions as shall be pointed out by the above mentioned Gentlemen. I am etc.

P.S. Should the Gentlemen go in, they must be notified to wait upon Col Smith in New York and take his Advice and direction relative to their business.⁸⁶

To CAPTAIN PIERRE CHARLES L'ENFANT⁸²

Head Quarters, February 15, 1783.

Sir: Your Letter of the 20th of January did not reach me till Yesterday.

In answer to it, I can only repeat what I before said on the same subject, in answer to your former application, that from the testimony of those under whom you have served and from the little opportunity I have myself had of observing your conduct, I have every reason to believe you a Meritorious Officer; nor will any objection arise on my part to a compliance on the part of Congress with your request.⁸³

86. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

On February 15 Washington wrote to the commanding officer at Dobbs Ferry granting permission for George Nicholson, of Virginia, to have an interview "with the British Merchants Capitulants at York Town in Virginia; for which purpose, he may either have permission to go with a flag into the City of N York or such Merchants aforesd as shall be specified by him may be suffered to come with a flag to the Post of Dobbs Ferry." This draft is in the Washington Papers.

82. Of Engineers.

83. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES

Head Quarters, February 16, 1783.

Sir: His Excellency wishes you to take the Opinion of the Board of General Officers, assembled at your Quarters, on the following Case: A General Court Martial sentences an Officer to be suspended for a given time.

2. In what manner does this Suspension Operate?

Is the Officer, suspended not only from Command but from Pay and other Emoluments of service? and if so, Is he totally detached from Service during the suspension? or how far is he under Military restraint? With the highest respect etc.⁸⁷

87. In the writing of and signed "Ben Walker Aid De Camp."

To BARON STEUBEN

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 18, 1783.

Dear Baron: On the 18th. of Janry I wrote to Colonel Stewart urging in the strongest terms I was master of, the necessity of his immediately joining the Army; since which time I have not heard a word from him. I now think myself obliged in justice to my own official character, and duty to the Public to signify to you as head of the Department, that it will be essential to the service either for Colonel Stewart to repair to Camp without one Moment's loss of time, or that another Inspector should be appointed to this Army as soon as possibly may be.

I beg you will be pleased to understand that the occasion of my being so explicit on this subject, is, because I have repeatedly heard that Colonel Stewart had entirely recovered his health, and cannot in that case conceive of any just reason for his being absent; and because I am fully convinced the service is every day suffering very great inconveniencies and injury for want of

himself, or some other Gentleman of character and abilities to execute the duties of the office he sustains. It being absolutely impossible for Major Barber (notwithstanding he make the greatest exertions) to perform the whole business of the Department Monthly in the manner it ought to be done. I am &c.⁵

[N.Y.H.S.]

To COLONEL ELISHA SHELDON

Head Quarters, February 18, 1783.

Sir: B General Hazen represents to me, that

5. In the writing of David Humphreys.

Lt. Kinney⁶ of your Regiment was some time since apprehended, below the Enemy's Lines, on suspicion of being concerned in illicit Trade and was sent up to the Cantonment at Pompton, where he was ordered by Gen Hazen to remain till the matter was examined into and decided or till he should be permitted to depart; notwithstanding which Orders, he left the Cantonment without leave and has not since been heard of.

Should this Officer have Joined his Regiment, or whenever he does join it, I am to desire that you will immediately Arrest him, and send him to Head Quarters that his Conduct may be enquired into.⁷ I am &c.⁸

To MAJOR COGGESHALL OLNEY

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 18, 1783.

Sir: The whole of the official Report of my Lord Stirling respecting the late movement of a Detachment of the Rhode Island Regt into the district of Vermont having been forwarded by me to Congress, the Honble Mr Arnold conceived his reputation in some degree affected thereby, and hath written to me twice on the subject of the Report so far as it related to himself personally. It is therefore my particular direction that you will

6. Lieut. Abraham Kinney, of the Second Continental Dragoons.

7. On February 18 Washington wrote to Hazen that he had ordered Kinney's arrest. "You will therefore be pleased to furnish the Judge Advocate with the Charges Against him and Evidence necessary to support them." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

8. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

(with due precautions of secrecy) cause a speedy and pointed compliance to be made with the Request contained in the following extract of a Letter of the 11th Inst from Mr Arnold, and inform me of the result by as early an opportunity as possible:

I have taken the liberty (says Mr Arnold) to inclose a number of Interrogatories,⁹ which I am desirous should be answered in the most explicit manner by Captain Macomber under Oath. And am necessitated to give you the trouble to direct that it be done, as well that you may be informed of what passes on the occasion; to whom the Report was made; as because you can direct it to be done in a manner which shall consist with that secrecy, which the ground of Capt Macombers mission may require.

From the personal knowledge I have of that young Gentleman, who I ever esteem as a person of Probity, I cannot suppose him capable of designing an injury to me, and therefore conclude he has either inadvertently imposed on himself, or has been villainously imposed upon by others, in this affair.

I am &c.¹⁰

9. The "Interrogatories" were inclosed in Washington's letter to Olney.

10. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR ST. CLAIR

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 19, 1783.

Dear Sir: It is a considerable time since I received the Letter in which you informed me, it would be impossible for you to return to the Army at the period appointed, on account of your pecuniary and domestic affairs; sympathising deeply in your private distresses I have delayed to recall your attention and presence to your command as long as the circumstances of service, my own personal feelings, and the duty I owe to the public would suffer me to do it. Before the rect of this Letter, you will have learnt my sentiments respecting the duties that are expected of the General Officers of this Army, from a late Order transmitted to you officially by the Adj. General; in addition to that information, I now take the liberty in this private and friendly manner to acquaint you, that in case

you wish to retain a command in this Army it will be essential for you to come on immediately prepared to remain with it; as I must make it a point for every Officer who will have the

honour of commanding any Corps of Troops in it, to take upon himself the charge and trouble of manœuvring, disciplining and forming that Corps for the Field.

I do not here enter fully into a detail of the reasons which now make it particularly necessary for the Genl Officers who have been long absent to join without loss of time; it will surely be sufficient to mention, that out of nine Generals assigned to the command of the Troops in this Cantonment seven are either actually gone or have made applications to be absent at the same time, so that by gratifying their wishes [(besides incurring public reprehension)] the whole weight of the business, the cares and the troubles of the Army would devolve upon me, until a sunshine occasion, or a prospect of some brilliant operation should induce them to return and share the pleasures and honors of service.

I request you will be so kind as to give me a line in Answer to this by the very next Post, and that you will believe. I am etc.¹³

To COLONEL LEWIS NICOLA

Head Quarters, February 20, 1783.

Sir: Five officers Viz Major Martlett, Captains

13. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The phrase in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

Paulint,¹⁵ Marna and Caulesage and Lt. Victor, with fourteen Men and nineteen Women, and forty six Children axe returned Monthly as Canadian Refugees in fish Kill and its Vicinity and draw Provision from the Public.

The Secretary at War has desired that an Officer might be appointed to examine into the State of these people and as you are on the Spot I am to desire you to undertake this business.

You will therefore be pleased to examine and to report to me the number and condition of these people, with their respective Claims to public assistance, so that a judgment may be formed whether all, or which of them, are entitled to the allowance above mentioned. I am &c.¹⁶

To CAPTAIN WILLIAM MUNSON¹⁷

Head Quarters, February 20, 1783.

Dr Sir: There can be no difficulty on our part in suffering the Gentlemen¹⁸ you mention to go to the Enemy's out post previous to the receipt of an Ansr from Sir Guy Carleton to their application, unless their should be an objection on the part of the Enemy; who I believe have constantly refused to

15. Capt. Antoine Paulint, formerly of the Second Canadian Regiment.

16. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

17. Of the Second Canadian Regiment. He served to June, 1783.

18. Capt. Samuel West and Peter Mangé.

suffer Persons coming with flags to remain any time at their advanced Posts unless permission had been first obtained for the purpose. I am etc.¹⁹

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 22, 1783.

Dear Sir: A few days ago General Lincoln delivered me your favor of the 7th. respecting the Enemy's force at Penobscot, and the apprehension of the Inhabitants of the eastern part of your State in consequence of the menacing appearances in that quarter, at the same time I recd. a Letter from the two Houses of your Legislature on the same subject.

After conversing pretty fully with the Secretary at War and Mr. Higginson,²⁰ I have written to the Honble the Senate and Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to the following

purport; that in the present equivocal state of affairs it was impossible for me to give a decisive answer to their propositions; that Peace on the one hand, or an attempt against New York on the other, might render any Proceedings on this business unnecessary or inexpedient; that the subject of our future military operations is now before Congress; that (if the War

19. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D. Humphrys A. D. C."

20. Stephen Higginson, Delegate to the Continental Congress from Massachusetts.

should be prolonged) *offensive* or *defensive* Measures would depend on their decision; that in the former case I should be happy to afford every aid in my power to gratify the wishes of the State, so far as could be done consistently with a due attention to the comparative magnitude of the several objects that might be in view; altho I could not conceive an Enterprize ought to be undertaken in that quarter, without a naval force superior to the Enemy's, and that in the latter case, viz, if *defensive* measures only should be adopted, the protection of the eastern frontier of the State would engage my particular attention. This was all I judged it expedient to say under the present circumstances.

Amongst the rumours and speculations on Peace (which are almost infinite) there is nothing that may absolutely be relied upon. And notwithstanding the prospect is so flattering, Yet as no Mortal can tell whether we shall have Peace or War; it is undoubtedly the part of discretion to be prepared for the latter so far as depends on our own exertions. I have therefore called very earnestly on the General Officers to assist in putting the Army in the best possible condition for activity of Service: but as you will have learnt my sentiments on this matter from the transcript of an Order which has been forwarded to you officially by the Adjutant General, I have only to enquire when I may actually expect the pleasure of seeing you at the Army, and to assure you that I am &c.²¹

[MS.H.S.]

21. In the writing of David Humphreys.

To MAJOR JAMES RANDOLPH REID

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 22, 1783.

Sir: I have recd your favor of this date, and have to inform you that there are some circumstances which render it inexpedient for a furlough to be granted to you at this Moment, in a few days (by the first of March I presume) you may expect the permission you solicit.

As no Warrants for Pay or Subsistence are now given by me, it will be proper to make your Arrangements on that head with the Depy Pay Mastr Genl in such Manner as that the Money may be properly accounted for. I am etc.²²

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, February 25, 1783.

Dear Sir: It was some time since reported to me that sundry Artillery Stores had been stolen from the Magazines at Kings ferry. The last Officer who was relieved also reports "a barrell of Powder stolen owing to the deficiency of the Magazine."

22. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

I wish some enquiry to be made of the Offr. commandg the Artillery into this repeated loss of Stores that measures may be taken to prevent it. I am etc.²⁹

[MS.H.S.]

To MAJOR ROBERT OLIVER

Head Quarters, February 25, 1783.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 24th. and laid the subject of it, with the several Papers relating thereto before the Commandr in Chief, who thinks the manner in which Sergt Fisher has been so long absent as well as his application for a discharge two or three years after his time of service is said to have expired, are very extraordinary. Before the Genl will undertake to do any thing in the Matter, it will be necessary that the highest possible Evidence should be obtained, not only as to the particular date and term of his Inlistment, but also respecting the reason and permission for his long continued absence. For if it appears that he was ever able to have joined, and neither did that, nor reported himself so as to be continued on the Rolls of the Regt. His Excellency does not consider himself authorized to take any Measures which will entitle him to pay during that absence. I am &c.³⁰

29. In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

30. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D. Humphreys A. D. C."

To MAJOR MOSES KNAP

Head Quarters, February 25, 1783.

Sir: I have taken the Commander in Chief's Orders on the subject of your Letter, and have to inform you, that where men indulged with furloughs have not returned, but are struck off the Rolls as deserters, others who would have received leave of absence upon their return, may be furloughed notwithstanding; this is upon a presumption the Commanding Officers of Regts in which such Desertions have happened will be careful to recommend none hereafter, for whose fidelity they cannot absolutely be responsible; should the instances of Desertion in cases of furlough multiply, I am apprehensive the General will put a total stop to the indulgence itself. I am &c.³¹

To BARON STEUBEN

Head Quarters, February 26, 1783.

Dear Baron: I was favored by the last Post, with the Report of the Board of Officers respecting Captn. Segond's claim of admission into the Legion of Armand; as it appears to be founded

31. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D[avid] H[umphreys]."

in justice and reason it has my entire approbation, and I presume must be satisfactory.

As the prospect of Peace (tho' more promising than it has been at any former period) is somewhat equivocal; I have determined to put the Army, so far as depends on our own exertions, in the most respectable state for active operations, which may be extremely necessary should any Contingency make another Campaign inevitable; to effect this, your presence and assistance will be of the greatest utility, so soon therefore as you can make it perfectly convenient. I shall be happy to see you at the Army; in the mean time I am etc.³⁵

To MAJOR BENJAMIN TALLMADGE

Head Quarters, February 26, 1783.

Dear Sir: I am this moment favored with your Letter of the 21 of this Month informing me of the Capture of one of the Enemys Armed Vessels,³⁶ by a party of Continental Troops detached by you for that purpose. I shall acquaint Congress of this additional exertion of yours to annoy the Enemy and prevent the illicit Trade carrying on with the Country, and I beg you to accept my thanks, and communicate them to the Officers and

35. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

36. The British armed vessel was the *Three Brothers*. Tallmadge's letter states that the *Three Brothers* was commanded by a Captain Johnstone, but the papers captured state that Capt. Jacob Cornwell was the master. The vessel mounted 11 carriage guns and 4 swivels, had a crew of 21, and was taken off Stratford Point after a brisk fight, in which Captain Johnstone was killed and 3 or 4 of his men badly wounded.

Men for their conduct in the execution of this business.

You will please to take the necessary measures for distributing the Prize among the Concerned in such manner as you may think most equitable. I am &c.³⁷

To JOHN ADAM

Head Quarters, February 26, 1783.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 10th of Febry. and must take the liberty to tell you candidly, there would not be a propriety in my writing to the President of Congress respecting your extra expences while acting as Depy. Corny. of Prisoners because it would open a door to innumerable applications because I do not conceive it is proper for me to interfere in the pecuniary Arrangements of Congress, and because I have never known any such allowances to be made except to Majr Generals commanding in separate Departments; but if Congress should think a gratuity in your particular case expedient, I can have no manner of objection to it, being with due regard etc.³⁸

37. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

38. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To COMFORT SANDS

Head Quarters, February 26, 1783.

Sir: In reply to your Letter of the 19th inst. I have to observe that the description contained therein of Troops supplied under the Contract for the Moving Army and under the Contract for West Point, is exactly conformable to the idea held up in the Letter I wrote to you in the Month of April last and in the general Order of April 29th. 1782. But as there was a wilful infraction of that Order on your part, and as (upon my expressing an apprehension that the confounding the issues of the two Contracts might be attended with difficulty in the settlement of accounts) you [declared] in unequivocal terms the matter was perfectly understood and agreed upon between Mr. Morris and yourself; and finally, as that agreement did supersede the Arrangement I had made, I can give no farther explanation, or say any thing more on the subject. I am &c.⁴²

To MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES

Head Quarters, March 3, 1783.

Dr. Sir: As it was a matter of question

42. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The word in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

whether Col Antil's family were to be included in the allowance of Provision to Canadian Refugees, a Reference has been made to the Secry at War, who has engaged to give a definitive ansr thereon, this is what has occasioned a demur with the Commissys. The Commander in Chief has now interfered and desired the issues may be regularly made until the further pleasure of the Secry at War shall be known. I have the honor etc.⁵⁸

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, March 3, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have been favored with your several Letters of the 23d. 24th. 25th and 27th of Febry.

It gives me great satisfaction to inform you, that I fully approve of your conduct in the late attempt to negotiate the business of your Department with the Enemy.⁵⁹

I am of opinion that giving a Letter of service to Lts Sutherland⁶⁰ and Campbell,⁶¹ would be merely eluding the intention of Congress, who by prohibiting the farther liberation of Prisoners, hope to produce a reasonable settlement of our Accounts, which hitherto has been attempted in vain. And as to the obligation General Greene is said to be under to the British for giving

58. The draft is in the writing of and the letter sent was signed by David Humphreys.

59. An exchange of prisoners.

60. Lieut. Alexander Sutherland, of the British Engineers.

61. Lieut. Robert Campbell, of the Seventy-first Foot, British Army.

a Letter of Service to Major Hyrne,⁶² the Gentlemen concerned forget to mention that this debt was rather overpaid by a similar indulgence to Lt Colonel Hamilton.⁶³

I am greatly surprised that Mr Skinner did not effect the liquidation of Accounts directed in my Letter of the 4th of July last; and I have now to desire you will, whenever you can make it convenient, proceed to the accomplishment of that business, reporting the same, together with any Accts you may have received, and all other pecuniary Matters to the Superintendt of Finance, whose directions you will receive thereon. This I think is also the best mode of conducting the business respecting the debts incurred by the Officers Prisoners in Canada, as there is I believe but one Officer included in the list you transmitted (viz Ensn Garret) now in service; and the greater part of them having never been in the pay of Continent will have no Monies to receive from the Pay Mastr General.

I have written to Hoaksley⁶⁴ on the subject of his Memorial,⁶⁵ which with the other Letters for New York I request you will forward by Flag; and also receive such Money as Sir Guy Carleton may order

to be sent out for Genl Chattelus, and which you will please to have transmitted to the Chevr de la Luzerne. I am etc.⁶⁶

62. Maj. Edmund Hyrne. He was aide to Gen. Nathanael Greene, and deputy adjutant general, Southern Department.

63. Lieut. Col. John Hamilton, of the Royal North Carolina Volunteers, British Provincial Troops.

64. British merchant, at Yorktown, Va.

65. In the *Washington Papers* under date of Dec. 27, 1782.

66. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To MAJOR BENJAMIN TALLMADGE

Head Quarters, March 4, 1783.

Sir: I have been favored with your Letter of the 24th of Febry with its Inclosures.

The Capture of the Boats mentioned by you, trading to and bringing Goods from L Island, is very clear; and their Condemnation, as well as of all others taken in like Situation, must be just.

The Case of the Flag, arrived at N Haven, is not expressed with that precision, as to enable me to decide positively respecting her. If she had been received, and suffered to transact her Business, Mr Levensworth,⁷¹ knowing my Orders, is reprehensible for her Admission, and the Flag not subject to Detention;

71. Maj. Eli Leavensworth (Levensworth, Leavenworth), of the Sixth Connecticut Regiment. Heitman states that he retired in January, 1781.

but if ordered to depart, without discharging her business, as comg contrary to Genl Orders, in that Case Mr Levensworth has acted with propriety, and the Boat and Men, under the Circumstances mentioned, ought surely to be detained, the Boat as prize, and the Men as prisoners.

The passing of Flags so frequently to the Eastern States, is a very disagreeable Circumstance, to say the least of it. If the States will permit them, they must risque the Consequences, they have been

informed of my Sentiments on the Subject. It is not in my power to prevent every Abuse of that kind.
I am &c.⁷²

To BRIGADIER GENERAL MOSES HAZEN

Head Quarters, March 5, 1783.

Sir: Your several favors of the 28th feby and 1st March have been received and I am happy to hear that your detachments are so fortunate in their exertions to prevent the illicit Trade carrying on between the Inhabitants and the Enemy.

The Judge Advocate shall have orders to prosecute Mr. Kinney⁸² and to call for the evidence in support of the prosecution.

If the business you mention is such, as

72. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

82. Lieut. Abraham Kenney.

requires your communicating it in person I have no objection to your coming to this place. I am
&c.⁸³

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARINUS WILLETT

Head Quarters, March 5, 1783.

Sir: I have been favoured with your Letter of the 19th of Febry. announcing the failure of your Attempt against Oswego.

Unfortunate as the Circumstance is, I am happy in the persuasion that no Imputation or reflection can justly reach your Character, and that you are enabled to derive much Consolation from the animated Zeal, fortitude and Activity of the Officers and Soldiers who accompanied you. The failure, it seems, must be attributed to some of those unaccountable Events, which are not within the

controul of human Means and which, tho' they often occur in military life, yet require not only the fortitude of the Soldier, but the calm reflection of the Philosopher, to bear.

I cannot omit expressing to you the high Sense I entertain of your persevering Exertions and Zeal on

83. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

this Expedition; and begging you to accept my warm Thanks on the Occasion; And that you will be pleased to communicate my Gratitude to the Officers and men under your Command, for the Share they have taken in that Service. With much Esteem etc.⁸⁴

[M.L.]

To CAPTAIN JAMES DUNCAN

Head Quarters, March 5, 1783.

Sir: I have received your Letter of the 3d of this Month. When General Hazen answered my Letter to him on the subject of your Complaint he preferred no charge against you of any kind but only gave his reasons for arranging the Officers in the manner he had done, and of which you complained.

As the Regiment was to be reduced to the same Establishment as the rest of the Army, I did not think proper to make any alterations till that event should take place, which will now be very soon and previous to it, a board of Officers shall be assembled to examine and fix your rank as well as that of all the Officers, so that no Injury may be done to any of them in the new Arrangement.

Your Complaint of being continued at the block house the whole Winter and without a

84. In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

Subaltern, shall be inquired into when General Hazen comes here which I expect will be in the course of two or three days. I am &c.⁸⁵

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, March 6, 1783.

Dear Sir: It is represented to me, that Capt. Day, of the 7th Massachusetts Regiment, is now, not only able to attend to his Duty in Camp, but that, his long absence, is considered in an unfavorable point of Light, by the Inhabitants in the part of the Country where he resides. As you will remember, the Appointment of Capt. Day to superintend and muster the Recruits at Springfield, was made in Consequence of his being supposed unfit for any Duty with the Army, I must request you to take the Trouble to examine into the State of facts; and if you should find he is capable of Service, that you will Order him to be relieved, and join his Corps immediately, unless you shall judge it is unnecessary to continue an Officer much longer at the post of Springfield to receive recruits, in which Case it would be hardly worth the Trouble of relieving him; and you will please therefore to give directions for him to repair to the Army, at some fixed Time, which should be as early as you think he can be dispensed with from the Mustering

85. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

Service. I am etc.

PS. The Seal of this was broken to acknowledge the Receipt of yours of 22d feby. just now come to hand Colo Vose will give you all the Intelligence we have.⁹⁴

[MS.H.S.]

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, March 8, 1783.

Dear Sir: The Women of the New York Regt. of Artillery have applied to me on the Subject of allowing them and their Children Provisions.

The number of Women and Children in the

94. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

New York Regiments of Infantry before the new System of Issues took place obliged me, either to depart from that System and allow them provision or by driving them from the Army risk the loss of a number of Men, who very probably would have followed their Wives. I preferred the former and accordingly directed that the whole of the Women and Children then with the Troops, should be allowed to draw as usual. So far as the Artillery Regimt. was under the same circumstances they

are entitled to the same indulgence: but as that indulgence was to remedy, and not to create, an evil, I would by no means extend it to Women who on the prospect of it, have since been brought into Camp; and I would wish you to see that no such do draw Provisions. I am etc.¹

[MS.H.S.]

To HEZEKIAH WETMORE⁹⁸

Head Quarters, March 8, 1783.

Sir: The Commander in Chief is clearly of opinion, that under the peculiar circumstances of the R Island Regt. the full amount of subsistence for all the Officers of it, ought to be paid for the month of March. I am etc.⁹⁹

1. In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

98. Deputy Paymaster General.

99. The draft is in the writing of and the letter sent is signed by David Humphreys.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Head Quarters, March 9, 1783.

Dr Sir: The Commander in Chief desires you will send in to N York the Naval Prisoners forwarded to you by the Adjt Genl and have proper Rects taken for them; unless there should be a Commissy of Marine Prisoners at Dobb's Ferry who will in that case negotiate the business. Pray inform us whether there is such a Commisy residt there or not. I am etc.⁴

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, March 10, 1783.

Sir: In Answer to a Letter written by the Comr in Chief a Week or two ago (several havg been written before on same Subject) to the Secty at War, respectg the Standards for the Army. The followg reply has been made.

"The Standards are in the Hands of the Q Master at Camp, and have been there for some Time." The Commander in Chief requests your Explanation of this Matter.¹³ Yours &c.¹⁴

4. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphrys A D C."

13. Pickering answered the same day (March 10) that the standards came to the store at camp in a box with other articles. The field commissary of military stores removed the other articles "but left the standards, saying he would send for them: however, there they are yet." Pickering's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

14. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "Jo T—ll Jr."

AUTHORIZATION AND INSTRUCTIONS TO WILLIAM SHATTUCK

Head Quarters, March 11, 1783.

Whereas Congress by their Resolutions, have especially authorized and requested me, to take such measures as I shall think proper to apprehend and secure Luke Knowlton and Samuel Welles, two persons supposed to be within the Territory called Vermont, and who are charged with high Crimes and misdemeanours against the United States of America.

You are therefore hereby authorized and impowered, to use your diligent Endeavours, in such way as shall be thought proper to secure and apprehend the said Knowlton and Welles, [or either of them], and him safely keep, that they may be conveyed to Congress. Taking Care, that in the Execution of such measures as you shall adopt, no means shall be used that may tend to excite or procure any general Commotions, Broils, or Contentions among the People of said Territory, or any of the Inhabitants of these United States.

And all Officers civil and military are hereby requested to aid and Assist the said Wm. Shattuck in such

reasonable and proper Measures as may be adopted by him, for the apprehending, safe keeping and conducting the said Knowlton and Welles, or either of them [to the Hd. Qrs.] of the Army; that they may be delivered over to the Orders of Congress, to be dealt with as they shall judge proper.¹⁷

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Head Quarters, March 12, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have duly received your favor of the 8th instant.

Mr. Mercereau³⁰ being out of military Office, and retired to the Class of Citizens, his Application to me for Liberty to go into N York, is not properly made; but should be addressed to the Civil Power of the State within which he resides; independent of this principle, I have no Objection to granting his Request. You may communicate my sentiments to him, and if he obtains Govr Livingston's Permission, his passing to New York by Way of your post, will be a matter very admissible. I am &c.³¹

17. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The words in brackets in the draft are in the writing of Washington, and his abbreviations are here followed.

30. John Mersereau.

31. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To MAJOR COGGESHALL OLNEY

Head Quarters, March 12, 1783.

Sir: Among the Vouchers for Issues made to the Northward I find Vouchers signed by you for near four hundred Rations issued to Artificers employed at Saratoga. I must beg to be informed what men these are, how and by whose order they are employed. I am &c.³²

To CAPTAIN JACQUES SCHREIBER³³

Head Quarters, March 12, 1783.

Sir: I have to acknowledge your Letter of the 4th instant. Disposed as I am to afford you every Assistance in my power, consistent with my Duty; I am obliged to declare to you, that after the Application which you have made to Congress for your Exchange, It is not for me the Servant of Congress, to grant you that Indulgence, which that Hono Body, by their particular Resolution, have thought proper to deny, as inconsistent with those general principles, which they, for particular Reasons, have judged necessary to adopt. I am &c.³⁴

32. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

33. Captain of Continental Engineers. He retired in May, 1783.

34. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, March 19, 1783.

Dear Sir: The Commander in Chief has reced a Letter from a Mr. Richd Corbin of Laneville in Virginia, desiring him to cause Enquiry to be made for his *Son Dicky* , who left his Father in the Year 1775, and went to England to secure a family Claim to an Estate in England and in Jamaica. The Father is informed, that his Son is now in N York, and wishes to get a certainty of the Fact. His Excellency desires you to take measures, such as you shall think proper, to gain some knowledge of the Young Gentleman, and if in N York, to give us what Information you can obtain of him.⁴⁶

The inclosed Letter for Sir Guy Carleton was transmitted to the Commr in Chief, by Mr Livingston Sectry of foreign Affairs. You will please to forward it to N York taking notice, for your future Government, of the Exchange that has been agreed to by Doctr Franklin. I am etc.⁴⁷

46. On this same day (March 19) Washington wrote to Richard Corbin that inquiry would be made for his son in New York. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

47. The draft is in the writing of and the letter sent is signed by Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Head Quarters, March 23, 1783.

Sir: Your favor of the 21st was delivered me last Evening.

You will please to give Capt. Douglass⁶¹ permission to pass within the Enemys Lines, agreeable to his recommendation from Majr. Turner. But you will, as from me, declare positively to Capt Douglass, that the proposed Communication for Exchange of Marine prisoners mentioned by him to be opened by way of Elizabeth Town, will not by any Means meet my Consent, and that no other places than those now permitted,

61. Capt. Thomas Douglass, of the Continental Artillery. He had retired in January, 1783; was captain of U. S. artillery in August, 1784; served to October, 1785.

will be admitted by me. Vizt Dobbs's Ferry and New Bridge.

I have no Objections to your proposed Visit to Camp; you will please to use your own Time for the purpose. The sendg on to Philadelphia, of the Money you have in Hand, may probably be negotiated without much Trouble, with either the Contractors or Paymaster; this you will be able to do, when you come to Camp. I am &c.⁶²

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, March 24, 1783.

Sir: In order to facilitate and expedite the communication between the Post of Dobbs Ferry and Head Quarters (which must be kept up principally by Runners) I have to request you will give Orders for forwarding expeditiously by a trusty Non Commisssd. Officer or Soldier as far as Kings Ferry (where the senior Officer has Instructions on the subject) all Dispatches from Head Quarters to Dobbs Ferry; and also that you will send to Head Quarters by the same mode of conveyance or in any manner you may judge best, all Letters, Papers, and Dispatches coming from the Lines or Advanced Posts, addressed to me, or either of the Gentlemen of my Family. I am etc.⁶³

[MS.H.S.]

62. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

63. In the writing of David Humphreys.

To HEZEKIAH WETMORE⁶⁴

Head Quarters, March 24, 1783.

Sir: On representation to the General of the conduct of Captn. Riley⁶⁵ of the Invalid Corps, and complaint from the Regt. of a Stoppage of their pay from you on that Account, His Excellency has given Instructions to Colo. Nicola, to have Capt. Riley arrested, and brought to Trial for the Impropriety of his conduct; and in the mean time it is his Excellency's pleasure, that you proceed in granting pay to the Regiment, supposing that you will be refunded your advancement to Captn. Riley. I am etc.⁶⁶

To BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID FORMAN

Head Quarters, March 25, 1783.

Sir: I have this Day received your favor of the 23d. instant.

It gives me pain that you have made a Request which I am unable to gratify. But my Duty obliges me to inform you, that the Request is of such a nature, as I have never complied with in any one Instance, nor do I think, that, while

64. Deputy Paymaster General.

65. Capt. John Reiley (Riley), of the Third Pennsylvania Regiment. He had been wounded at Bonhampton, N.J., in April, 1777; was transferred to the Invalid Corps in August, 1780; served to June, 1783.

66. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "J.T.—ll."

On March 24 Robert R. Livingston wrote to Washington, by express, that peace had been declared. "The Vessel that brought these dispatches was sent out by the Count Destaign to recall the french cruizers...France by getting little for herself has laid in a store of reputation which will be worth more than much territory...I have with the approbation of Congress despatched Mr Lewis Morris my secretary to Genl. Carleton with the news of peace." Livingston's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

under our present Circumstances, It will ever permit me to grant it on any similar one.

If the Introduction of Merchandize from within the Enemy's Lines, is in any Case admissible, I conceive that the Legislature or executive of the State into which they are meant to be bro't, are the only competent Judges of its propriety. If those powers will not permit such request, it is certainly not consistent with my Duty, to grant an Indulgence, which they reject. I am etc.⁶⁷

To MAJOR BENJAMIN TALLMADGE

Head Quarters, March 25, 1783.

Sir: It is more than probable that the Orders to Sir Guy Carleton by the last Packet, are decisive as to the Evacuation or holding N York.

As it is important to our Operations to have as early knowledge of this Determination as possible, and having great Dependance on your Channel of Intelligence, I am anxious to have you exert your most diligent Endeavours, to obtain all the Information you can, of what is passing in N York since the Arrival of the Packet. What is the Genl Rumour; what their Movements or Operations; the state and No of their

67. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

Transports, and Ships of War; What the Number, State and Situation of their Troops; whether any Embarkation is meditated, and to what part if any. And in General, any Information that may be useful to us in present Circumstances.

The present anxious incertitude as to a general Pacification, renders our watchful Observations of more importance than common; that we may if possible be able to penetrate the Designs of our Enemy. If another Campaign is to be expected, the sooner we are ascertained of its Necessity the Better, that our preparations may be prosecuted with Vigor.

The more frequent and the more particular your Communications are, the more agreeable will they prove. I am &c.⁶⁸

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, March 27, 1783.

Dear Sir: Since you left me, a Servant of the Marquis de la Fayette has arrived with Dispatches. The Marquis sent him in the Packet from Cadiz. I enclose a summary of the Articles as published in Philadelphia; also a Copy of the Communication from the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, and an Extract of a Letter

68. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

from His Excellency the Minister of France for your satisfaction.

It likewise gives me great pleasure to have received the following Assurance from a Gentleman in Congress. "The measures of the Army are such as I could have wished them, and will add lustre to their character as well as strengthen the hands of Congress." With the greatest regard etc.⁷¹

[MS.H.S.]

To CAPTAIN GEORGE HURLBUT

Head Quarters, March 27, 1783.

Sir: His Excellency, sensible of your Merits, and attentive to your wishes, desires me to reply to your Letter of Yesterday: and to inform you that he will take much pleasure in contributing, by any Means in his power, to alliviate your Misfortunes; and will most readily comply with your Requests.

A few Days will determine whether it will be necessary to obtain from Sir Guy Carleton or Admiral Digby, passports for your going by Water to N London: should Circumstances require it, no delay will be made to prevent your being furnished by the Time you mention. The Q. M Genl will have Orders to procure a Suitable Vessel, and your Friend Mr Colfax⁷² will be permitted to attend you.

71. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

72. Capt. William Colfax.

During your Stay in this Neighbourhood, if the Genl Stores can furnish any little Comfitures to supply your Desire or gratify your Wishes, you have only to hint your Wants, and they will be cheerfully attended to. I am etc.⁷³

To CAPTAIN JOHN PRAY

Head Quarters, Newburgh, March 30, 1783.

Sir: The News of Peace (tho not official) is nevertheless so positive and the certainty that Hostilities were to cease in America on the 20th of this Month is so great, that the Commander in Chief has no hesitation in Ordering the Waggon, Horses, Drivers and every thing captured to be given up and returned to the British Lines, without the least injury or delay. I am etc.⁸³

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Head Quarters, March 31, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have the pleasure to inclose to you a letter

73. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "J. T—ll."

83. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphrys A D C."

from the Marquis de la fayette, which came under cover to me, by the Packet Triumph, dispatched by the Marquis and the Count de Estaing from Cadiz to Phila.

All the Accounts which this Vessel has bro't, of a Conclusion of a General Peace, you will receive before this can reach you.

You will give the highest Credit to my Sincerity, when I beg you to accept my warmest Congratulations on this glorious and happy Event, an Event which crowns all our Labors and will sweeten the Toils which we have experienced in the Course of Eight Years distressing War. The

Army here, universally participate in the general Joy which this Event has diffused, and, from this Consideration, together with the late Resolutions of Congress, for the Commutation of the Half pay, and for a Liquidation of all their Accounts, their Minds are filled with the highest Satisfaction. I am sure you will join with me in this additional occasion of joy.

It remains only for the States to be Wise, and to establish their Independence on that Basis of inviolable efficacious Union, and firm Confederation, which may prevent their being made the Sport of European Policy; may Heaven give them Wisdom to adopt the Measures still necessary for this important Purpose. I have the honor etc.⁸⁹

89. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, March 31, 1783.

Sir: I have received information that Captain Ogden of the Jersey Line has lately been into the City of New York. As I conceive there is a great Military impropriety in such conduct unless he had proper authority for the purpose, and as I am totally unacquainted with any permission he could have had, I must request you will please to order him to the Army immediately, that public investigation may be made into the matter, unless satisfactory reasons can be given for the unprecedented conduct he has adopted. I am etc.⁸⁶

P.S. Being informed by the official Proceedings which have come into my hands that Colo Ogden is not now employed on public business I wish to know the occasion of his absence at a time when another field Officer in the same Regt. had leave of absence from the 1st of Janry to the 15th of April.⁸⁷

To THEODORICK BLAND

Head Quarters, March 31, 1783.

Sir: The Article in the provisional Treaty

86. Captain Ogden explained in a letter to Washington. dated April 6, and on April 12 Trumbull wrote Ogden that the Commander in Chief "from his former good Opinion of you as an Officer...is willing to look upon your going into N York...as a Step of Inadvertence." Trumbull's draft and Ogden's letter of April 6 are in the *Washington Papers*.

87. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

respecting Negroes, which you mentiond to Sir Guy Carleton, had escaped my Notice, but upon a recurrence to the Treaty, I find it as you have stated. I have therefore tho't it may not be amiss to send your Letter to Sir Guy, and have accordingly done it. Altho I have several Servants in like predicament with yours, I have not yet made any attempt for their recovery. Sir Guy Carleton's reply to you, will decide upon the propriety or expediency of any pursuit to obtain them. If that reply should not be transmitted thro my Hands, I will thank you for a Communication of it. With much Regard etc.⁸⁸

To CAPTAIN THOMAS ARNOLD

Head Quarters, March 31, 1783.

Sir: I have received your Letter of the 18th instant.

No alteration in the Corps of Invalids has taken place, since your being with them. The Secretary at War, had in Contemplation to make some Reform, but nothing is yet effected; and it is doubtful, whether any thing will soon be done.

In consideration of your peculiar Misfortune,⁹⁰ and the Situation of Affairs at the present conjuncture, you will please to look on your furlough as extended to such Time, as you may receive particular Orders for your future Conduct. I am etc.⁹¹

88. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Judge E A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N.J.

90. Noted on the draft as "short of a Leg."

91. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

***To THE OFFICERS OF THE ARMY**

Head Quarters, Newburgh, March 15, 1783.

Gentlemen³⁸: By an anonymous summons, an attempt has been made to convene you together; how inconsistent with the rules of propriety! how unmilitary! and how subversive of all order and discipline, let the good sense of the Army decide.

In the moment of this Summons, another anonymous production was sent into circulation, addressed more to the feelings and passions, than to the reason and judgment of the Army. The author of the piece, is entitled to much credit for the goodness of his Pen and I could wish he had as much credit for the rectitude of his Heart, for, as Men see thro' different Optics, and are induced by the reflecting faculties of the Mind, to use different means, to attain the same end, the Author of the Address, should have had more charity, than to mark for Suspicion, the Man who should recommend moderation and longer forbearance, or, in other words, who should not think as he thinks, and act as he advises. But he had another plan in view, in which candor and liberality of Sentiment, regard to justice, and love of Country, have no part; and he was right, to insinuate the darkest suspicion, to effect the blackest designs.

That the Address is drawn with great Art, and is designed to answer the most insidious purposes. That it is calculated

38. Ford notes a letter from Col. David Cobb, recounting that "When the General took his station in the desk or pulpit, which you may recollect, was in the Temple, he took out his written address from his coat pocket, and his spectacles, with his other hand, from his waistcoat pocket, and then addressed the officers in the following manner: "Gentlemen, you will permit me to put on my spectacles, for I have not only grown gray, but almost blind, in the service of my country."; This little address, with the mode and manner of delivering it. drew tears from [many] of the officers."

to impress the Mind, with an idea of premeditated injustice in the Sovereign power of the United States, and rouse all those resentments which must unavoidably flow from such a belief. That the secret mover of this Scheme (whoever he may be) intended to take advantage of the passions, while they were warmed by the recollection of past distresses, without giving time for cool, deliberative thinking, and that composure of Mind which is so necessary to give dignity and stability to measures is rendered too obvious, by the mode of conducting the business, to need other proof than a reference to the proceeding.

Thus much, Gentlemen, I have thought it incumbent on me to observe to you, to shew upon what principles I opposed the irregular and hasty meeting which was proposed to have been held on Tuesday last: and not because I wanted a disposition to give you every opportunity consistent with your own honor, and the dignity of the Army, to make known your grievances. If my conduct heretofore, has not evinced to you, that I have been a faithful friend to the Army, my declaration of it at this time wd. be equally unavailing and improper. But as I was among the first who embarked in the cause of our common Country. As I have never left your side one moment, but when called from you on public duty. As I have been the constant companion and witness of your Distresses, and not among the last to feel, and acknowledge your Merits. As I have ever considered my own Military reputation as inseparably connected with that of the Army. As my Heart has ever expanded with joy, when I have heard its praises, and my indignation has arisen, when the mouth of detraction has been opened against it, it can

scarcely be supposed , at this late stage of the War, that I am indifferent to its interests. But, how are they to be promoted? The way is plain, says the anonymous Addresser. if War continues, remove into the unsettled Country; there establish yourselves, and leave an ungrateful Country to defend itself. But who are they to defend? Our Wives, our Children, our Farms, and other property which we leave behind us. or, in this state of hostile seperation, are we to take the two first (the latter cannot be removed), to perish in a Wilderness, with hunger, cold and nakedness? If Peace takes place, never sheath your Swords Says he untill you have obtained full and ample justice; this dreadful alternative, of either deserting our Country in the extremest hour of her distress, or turning our Arms against it, (which is the apparent object, unless Congress can be compelled into instant compliance) has something so shocking in it, that humanity revolts at the idea. My God! what can this writer have in view, by recommending such measures? Can he be a friend to the Army? Can he be a friend to this Country? Rather, is he not an insidious Foe? Some Emissary, perhaps, from New York, plotting the ruin of both, by sowing the seeds of discord and seperation between the Civil and Military powers of the Continent? And what a Compliment does he pay to our Understandings, when he recommends measures in either alternative, impracticable in their Nature?

But here, Gentlemen, I will drop the curtain, because it wd. be as imprudent in me to assign my reasons for this opinion, as it would be insulting to your conception, to suppose you stood in need of them. A moment's reflection will convince every dispassionate

Mind of the physical impossibility of carrying either proposal into execution.

There might, Gentlemen, be an impropriety in my taking notice, in this Address to you, of an anonymous production, but the manner in which that performance has been introduced to the

Army, the effect it was intended to have, together with some other circumstances, will amply justify my observations on the tendency of that Writing. With respect to the advice given by the Author, to suspect the Man, who shall recommend moderate measures and longer forbearance, I spurn it, as every Man, who regards that liberty, and reveres that justice for which we contend, undoubtedly must; for if Men are to be precluded from offering their Sentiments on a matter, which may involve the most serious and alarming consequences, that can invite the consideration of Mankind, reason is of no use to us; the freedom of Speech may be taken away, and, dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep, to the Slaughter.

I cannot, in justice to my own belief, and what I have great reason to conceive is the intention of Congress, conclude this Address, without giving it as my decided opinion, that that Honble Body, entertain exalted sentiments of the Services of the Army; and, from a full conviction of its merits and sufferings, will do it compleat justice. That their endeavors, to discover and establish funds for this purpose, have been unwearied, and will not cease, till they have succeeded, I have not a doubt. But, like all other large Bodies, where there is a variety of different Interests to reconcile, their deliberations are slow. Why then should we distrust them? and, in consequence of that distrust, adopt measures, which

may cast a shade over that glory which, has been so justly acquired; and tarnish the reputation of an Army which is celebrated thro' all Europe, for its fortitude and Patriotism? and for what is this done? to bring the object we seek nearer? No! most certainly, in my opinion, it will cast it at a greater distance.

For myself (and I take no merit in giving the assurance, being induced to it from principles of gratitude, veracity and justice), a grateful sence of the confidence you have ever placed in me, a recollection of the chearful assistance, and prompt obedience I have experienced from you, under every vicissitude of Fortune, and the sincere affection I feel for an Army, I have so long had the honor to Command, will oblige me to declare, in this public and solemn manner, that, in the attainment of compleat justice for all your toils and dangers, and in the gratification of every wish, so far as may be done consistently with the great duty I owe my Country, and those powers we are bound to respect, you may freely command my Services to the utmost of my abilities.

While I give you these assurances, and pledge myself in the most unequivocal manner, to exert whatever ability I am possessed of, in your favor, let me entreat you, Gentlemen, on your part, not to take any measures, which, viewed in the calm light of reason, will lessen the dignity, and sully the glory you have hitherto maintained; let me request you to rely on the plighted faith of your

Country, and place a full confidence in the purity of the intentions of Congress; that, previous to your dissolution as an Army they will cause all

your Accts. to be fairly liquidated, as directed in their resolutions, which were published to you two days ago, and that they will adopt the most effectual measures in their power, to render ample justice to you, for your faithful and meritorious Services. And let me conjure you, in the name of our common Country, as you value your own sacred honor, as you respect the rights of humanity, and as you regard the Military and National character of America, to express your utmost horror and detestation of the Man who wishes, under any specious pretences, to overturn the liberties of our Country, and who wickedly attempts to open the flood Gates of Civil discord, and deluge our rising Empire in Blood. By thus determining, and thus acting, you will pursue the plain and direct road to the attainment of your wishes. You will defeat the insidious designs of our Enemies, who are compelled to resort from open force to secret Artifice. You will give one more distinguished proof of unexampled patriotism and patient virtue, rising superior to the pressure of the most complicated sufferings; And you will, by the dignity of your Conduct, afford occasion for Posterity to say, when speaking of the glorious example you have exhibited to Mankind, "had this day been wanting, the World had never seen the last stage of perfection to which human nature is capable of attaining."

[MS.H.S.]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL MOSES HAZEN

Head Quarters, April 3, 1783.

Sir: The Adj. General transmits you by this conveyance the Order of this date for a Court of Inquiry &c. I shall expect you will forward the Letter addressed to Major Reid with the greatest rapidity it also contains a transcript of the Order.

I consent you should go to Philadelphia for a few days but desire your absence may not be protracted beyond what is absolutely necessary. I am &c.

PS. I intended to have spoken to you respecting relieving Capt. Duncan from the stationary command of the Block House in the Clove; you will please to have it done as soon as may be.⁹⁷

97. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To MAJOR BENJAMIN TALLMADGE

Head Quarters, April 4, 1783.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 31st Ult. As no official information of a general Peace has yet arrived, I can undertake to make no definitive arrangements for taking possession of the City of New York, and can only say at present, that, for the reasons you suggest, I think there will be a propriety in your going early into Town, whenever the communication shall be opened, whether with or without Your Detachment will depend upon circumstances, and may be a matter of future consideration. It will not however be amiss for the Troops to have their Cloathing and every Article belonging to them in the best possible Orders.¹ I am &c.²

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Headquarters, April 6, 1783.

Sir: It is not improbable, that on the Arrival of the Packet at N York with the Hews of Peace, Sir Guy Carleton will send out an Officer with dispatches for me, containing that agreeable intelligence; in such case the Officer may be permitted to come to this

1. The principal reason suggested by Tallmadge for going into New York with his detachment among the first was "that particular attention may be paid to certain Characters in New York, who have served us very essentially, and who may otherways be treated amiss." Tallmadge's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

2. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

place and you will send an Officer with him or accompany him yourself, as you may think proper. I am &c.¹²

To JOHN PIERCE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 6, 1783.

Sir: The speedy settlement of the Accounts of the Army being a matter of the utmost consequence, I cannot help repeating to you my earnest desire and expectation, that the greatest diligence will be used in accomplishing it. And I will venture to

12. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

give it as my opinion, that so many hands as can be made use of, after you have fully digested and settled the principles, ought to be employed in the execution of the business.

No expence that can be incurred by hiring a great number of Writers for the occasion is to be compared with the expences which will arise from keeping the Army together one single day to wait for the liquidation of their Accounts. That the Troops must be kept together a considerable time for this purpose only, will be I conceive inevitable, unless the greatest exertions shall in the mean time be made. And that a variety of other ill consequences may result from a delay in the completion of this business, need scarcely be suggested.

Impressed as I am with the Ideas before mentioned, I cannot hesitate to give you every assistance in my power either by stimulating the Army to uncommon efforts on their part, or by writing to any public Characters in the States to forward the Accounts with the greatest possible dispatch. I am
&c.¹³

[N.Y.H.S.]

PASSPORT TO ENTER NEW YORK

Head Quarters, April 6, 1783.

Daniel Parker Esqr. Contractor for the Army havg represented to me, by his Letter of the 2d April, that in consequence of Instructions from the Secty at War, he has lately been in N York,

13. In the writing of David Humphreys.

on Business relative to public Supplies, and having been unable, in the first Instance to accomplish the Purposes of his Mission, and having now a prospect of doing it, applies to me for passport to return to that City.

Permission is hereby granted to the sd Daniel Parker Esqr. to proceed by Water from this Place, by Way of Dobb's Ferry, to N York, for the purposes mentioned in his Instructions from the Minister of War).¹⁴

To BRIGADIER GENERAL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, April 7, 1783.

Sir: The Negro Boy, whom it is said Captain Ballard¹⁸ attempted to sell, waits upon you with this; he reports that the Person who pretended to purchase him consents to give up the Bill of Sale, upon his obtaining a certificate that Captn Ballard had no right to dispose of him as a Slave. Justice and Humanity require the Matter should be enquired into; that, in case it shall appear the lad is free, and was not the property of Captn Ballard, and in case Captain Ballard has nevertheless presumed to sell him for a Slave; the former may be liberated from his bondage and relieved

14. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

18. Capt. Jeremiah Ballard, of the Second New Jersey Regiment. He served to April, 1783.

from his apprehensions, and the latter prosecuted in a suitable manner if practicable. These are the Commander in Chiefs sentiments, and he requests you will take the trouble of causing the Investigation to be made, and Justice to be done in the premises. I have the honor etc.¹⁹

To COLONEL MATTHIAS OGDEN

Head Quarters, April 7, 1783.

Sir: In Consequence of an Application from Major Barber in your behalf, and a Communication from him of the Benefits and advantage you have in prospect from a Tour to france; considering also that the present Stage of the War, may probably admit of your Absence from your military Duty, without Detriment; I have tho't proper to signify to you my Approbation of your intended Voyage, and to consent to your leaving this Continent for the purposes mentioned to me; provided you first obtain the Liberty of Congress to sanctify your Absence; a measure which is indispensable. I am &c²⁰

19. The draft is in the writing of and signed "D Humphrys A. D. C"

20. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, no. 78, XVII, fol. 349.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES ARMAND-TUFFIN

Head Quarters, April 9, 1783.

Sir: As I ever take pleasure in seeing military Merit rewarded, I rejoice at your promotion²⁹ to the Rank of Brigadier General, which you mention Congress has been pleased to grant you and most sincerely congratulate you on the Occasion. I am &c.³⁰

29. On Mar. 26, 1783.

30. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To BARON STEUBEN, MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX, AND BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON

Head Quarters, April 12, 1783.

Gentlemen: Taking it for granted the principle is generally understood, that an Officer holding a Commission in the Line of the Army of a superior grade, to that he possesses in a particular Corps, is to roll on all general duties agreeably to his Commission in the Army, and to be considered in the Line of the State to which he belongs, according to the rank he holds in a Corps of that State; the following questions will then arise in the case of Majr. Sumner, who is also a Captain in the 3d. Mass'tts. Regt. supposing him to be put on the Roster with the Majors of the Line, and take his tour as such in all general details for Detachment, Courts Martial, Officer of the Day &c. what specific Duties shall he perform, at the same time, as a Captain in the Massachusetts Line? for example, ought he to be detailed as Captain of Police in the Brigade to which he belongs, in the present mode of doing Duty, when the Officer of Police reports to the Field Officer of the Day, or not? How are the different Duties, to which an Officer in that predicament is subjected, to be reconciled? or when those Duties shall interfere, which is to supersede the other?

I desire your opinions collectively in writing on these points of Service, as soon as conveniently may be, and am etc.⁴⁰

40. In the writing of David Cobb. On the same letter is inscribed the signed opinion of Steuben, Knox, and Huntington to the effect that Sumner must perform all duties in the line, incident to his rank; to report to the field officer of the day, even though he is a junior, and the Adjutant General's roster is to be obeyed before any other.

To BARON STEUBEN

Head Quarters, April 14, 1783.

My dear Baron: A Committee of Congress is appointed to consider what arrangements it will be proper to adopt in the different departments with reference to a peace.

Colo. Hamilton who is Chairman of this Committee has written me on this Subject wishing to know my Sentiments at large on such institutions of every kind for the interior defence of these States, as may be best adapted to their circumstances and conciliate security with Oeconomy and with the principles of our Government.⁴¹

I wish therefore to be favored with your thoughts on this Subject as soon as possible that I may compare them with my own and be able to comply with the request of the Committee in as full a manner and with as little delay as can be. I am etc.⁴²

41. The same request was made of Maj. Gen. Henry Knox and of Gov. George Clinton in brief notes, both dated April 14, the drafts of which are in the *Washington Papers*.

42. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARINUS WILLETT

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 14, 1783.

Sir: Official accounts of the happy conclusion of a Peace, have been transmitted by Sir Guy Carleton to General Haldimand at Quebec by two Officers who passed thro' this place a few days since: but

as a very considerable time must elapse before these Gentlemen can arrive at Quebec, and the News be commnuicated from thence to the British Posts in the Upper Country, and as humanity dictates that not a moment should be lost in endeavouring to prevent any further incursions of the Indians (who, it is said, have already struck at Wyoming) I have thought it proper to write to General McLean⁴³ commanding the British Force in that Quarter, and to inclose to him the King of Great Britains Proclamation for the Cessation of Hostilities; and this Letter I must desire you to forward to him at Niagara by some trusty Indian runner with all possible expedition; the expence attending this business shall be repaid on your informing me of it.

You will at the same time give orders to the Troops and Indians under your Command, to forbear all Acts of Hostility against the Troops of his Brittannic Majesty, other than for their own immediate defence. I am &c.

PS. The Dispatch is left under a flying Seal, that you may see the News paper which is inclosed; after reading you will please to return the paper, Seal and send forward.⁴⁴

[H.L.]

43. Brig. Gen. Allan Maclean (McLean), of the British Army in America.

44. In the writing of Benjamin Walker; the P.S. is in the writing of and is signed by Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

April 15, 1783.

Dr Sir: I have been honored with Yours of yesterday and now inclose the passport which the Comd in Chief has been pleased to grant for Mr. Coffin⁵¹ to proceed to Boston in case he shall have previously obtained permission for that purpose from the Executive of the State. It is upon this condition alone His Excellency will make any interference, and this he desires may be explicitly understood in all similar cases untill some further regulations shall be established on the subject. I am &c.⁵²

To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM IRVINE

Head Quarters, April 16, 1783.

Sir: In reply to your favor of the 28th of March I have to observe, that it is probable that a dissolution of the Army is not far distant; but as it is uncertain when the proclamation of peace and Cessation of hostilities will be ordered by Congress; and as it is of much Importance, for the reasons mentioned by yourself among others, that you should be present at your post previous to,

51. Thomas Aston Coffin. The name is also spelled Austin Coffin in the passport which was dated April 15, and contained the phrase: "If this is *Bona fide* the Case. Permission hereby granted etc." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

52. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D[avid] H[umphreys]."

and at the takg place of that Event, I have to desire that you will proceed immediately to Fort Pitt, where your influence and prudence may be much needed.

Particular Instructions respectg the Security and Disposition of the Stores, after disbandg the Troops now in Garrison, it is not in my power to give you at this Time; these you will probably soon receive from the Secrty at War, and will depend upon the Arrangements which shall be adopted for a Peace Establishment, which are now under Consideration: on this decision also will probably depend the Length of Time which will be necessary for you to remain at the Post.

The Pay Master Genl is now takg Measures for formg his Settlements with the Army; in his Arrangement the whole are to be included, and will undoubtedly extend to the Garrison of Fort Pitt.

The Happy Event of a general Peace diffuses very universal satisfaction; with great sincerity I return you my Congratulations on that great Occasion, and beg you to accept my Thanks for the good wishes which you apply personally to myself. With much Regard etc.⁵⁴

[H.S.P.]

54. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To COLONEL MATTHIAS OGDEN

Head Quarters, April 19, 1783.

Sir: Agreeably to your request I now inclose

you a Certificate⁷² of your services, as an Officer in the Army of the United States.

You mention in your Letter that tho' your business in France is of a Merchantile Nature, it is your intention to travel in Regimentals; on this I cannot help remarking, that there may be an impropriety in your appearing in a Military dress when the War shall have ceased and the United States shall no longer have an Army existing, and besides, to those acquainted with the Country you are going to, it is well known that the Military and the Mercantile Character, is there totally different and inconsistent with each other, and however respectable the latter may be here, in France it is even deemed disgraceful for an Officer to engage in Commerce of any kind.

I wish you a pleasant Voyage and safe return and am etc.⁷³

72. A draft of the certificate referred to, in the writing of David Humphreys, accompanies, this letter and is in the *Washington Papers*.

73. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 21, 1783.

Sir: The cessation of hostilities having been now proclaimed you will permit any Citizen of the State of New York or of the United States to pass and repass your Post with any Vessels, Boats or Water Craft, without any hindrance or molestation, on their reporting themselves to you or to such Officer as shall be appointed by you for the purpose. I am etc.⁷⁹

[MS.H.S.]

79. In the writing of Benjamin Walker. The same letter was also sent to Lieut. Col. William Stephens Smith at Dobbs Ferry.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARINUS WILLETT

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 23,⁹⁵ 1783.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 14th. instant. Apprehending the same delay in the Conveyance of the News of Peace by Way of Canada, which you mention, I have written to Brigr Genl McLean, comrnandg at Niagara, giving him the Information as I had received it from Sir Guy Carleton. This Letter was inclosed to your Care more than a Week ago; I hope it has been received, and transmitted agreeable to my desire.

This Intelligence given to the Western posts, altho not *official* , yet will I hope, be received with some Attention, and serve to prevent those mischiefs which we have been led to apprehend, from the late disposition of the Indians.

Your Congratulations on the great Event of Peace, I accept with much pleasure, and beg you to be assured that I make you a Return of mine with equal satisfaction.

Your request to go to New York, I shall gladly indulge as soon as matters are a little more settled than they are at present. With Regard I am etc.⁹⁶

[H.L.]

95. The draft is dated April 22.

96. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

On April 23 Congress resolved that the time of the men enlisted for the war did not expire until the ratification of the definitive treaty of peace; that such noncommissioned officers and soldiers as remained until that period should be allowed to ret. in their arms and accoutrements; and that the Commander in Chief could grant furloughs or discharges as he might deem expedient. (See General Orders, May 1, 1783.)

To MAJOR GENERAL LOUIS LE BÈQUE DU PORTAIL

Head Quarters, April 23, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have received your favor of the 16th. instant.

The case of Mr. Reckless I have referred to the Secretary at War, who will take care to fulfill his wishes.⁹²

In answer to your Questions respecting the Engineers, I can only say, that a Peace Establishment is now under consideration, in which it is recommended that Congress should form Military Academies and Manufactories, as a part of their Establishment; should this Idea be adopted, and the plan carried into execution; it will doubtless, be necessary for us to retain some of the French Engineers now in America, for the first beginning of the Institution. The particular Number or persons cannot now be pointed out, but I am persuaded that none will be more agreeable than those Gentlemen of your Corps who have distinguished themselves in our Service with so much Ability and Satisfaction.

Yours &c.⁹³

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARINUS WILLETT

Head Quarters, April 25, 1783.

Sir: Your Letter of the 18th. was received Yesterday

92. On this same day (April 23) Washington wrote to the Secretary at War that Mr. Reckless "havg served a long Time in the Corps [of Engineers] with an Encouragement of a Commission, I think it very proper that his Expectations should be fulfilled." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

93. The draft is in the writing of David Cobb and Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

informing of your sending on the dispatches to Genl McLean, and the Sum of Expençe:

Agreeable to your Desire I have engaged the twenty seven pounds N York Currency to be deposited in the Hands of Mr Glen at Schenectady. Colo Duer has promised me to have this Done by the Time you mention.

The Information forwarded by you to the post of Oswego, is perfectly approved by me and hope it will have a salutary Effect. I am &c.¹

To DANIEL PARKER

Head Quarters, April 28, 1783.

Sir: Being informed by Colo Humphry as well as by your Letter to me, that you have been induced to accept, for the present, the superintendence of the Embarkation from N York of the Tories and Refugees who are leaving the Country, and to prevent if possible, their carrying off any Negroes or other property of the Inhabitants of the United States; [and having seen Sir Guy Carleton Orders on this Head] I take the Liberty of inclosing to you a List and description of Negroes which has been sent me by Govt. Harrison of Virginia, and to beg that you will improve the

1. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

Opportunity you will have, of obtaing and securing them agreeable to the Govr's Request, if they are to be found in the City. Your Endeavours will not only be very obliging to the Governor, but will be thankfully acknowledged by me.

Some of my own slaves, [and those of Mr. Lund Washington who lives at my Ho] may probably be in N York but I am unable able to give you their Descriptions; their Names being so easily changed, will be fruitless to give you. If by Chance you should come at the knowledge of any of them, I will be much obliged by your securing them, so that I may obtain them again.

This Business which you have undertaken, altho troublesome to yourself, and as I imagine, very difficult in the Execution; yet, as I am persuaded you have accepted it from the best motives, will I hope, be of utility to the Subjects of the United States, and therefore cannot, I think, involve any impropriety of Conduct in your being concerned, untill Measures are adopted by Congress, for the Appointment of persons for this purpose. With much regard etc.

[PS. Since writing the above I have received a Letter from Mr. Lund Washington respecting *some* of his Negroes, a list of which with my own is herewith inclosed.]¹¹

To CAPTAINS JOHN CARLISLE,¹⁶ LEONARD BLEECKER,¹⁷ AND JAMES GREGG¹⁸

Head Quarters, April 30, 1783.

Gentlemen: It having been suggested to me that such

11. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, Jr. From the original in the Boston Public Library. The portions in brackets in the draft are in the writing of Washington, and his spelling is followed. In addition, the draft, which does not contain the P.S., has the following crossed off at the end of the letter: "This Appointment, I should hope, will be soon made, as the Secretary of foreign Affairs has been written to on the Subject."

16. Of the Second Canadian Regiment. He retired in July, 1783.

17. Capt. Leonard Bleeker, of the First New York Regiment. He served to November 1783.

18. Of the First New York Regiment. He served to June, 1783.

a Measure would be agreeable to many Officers, I had, Some Time before I received your Letter and Memorial of the 26th instant, written to the Secty at War, making the same proposition as is mentioned by you, exclusive of the Idea of Emoluments (which Idea was particularly hinted); and grounded the propriety of the Measure upon the principle of its involving no additional Expence in the Execution; at the same Time that it would prove an agreeable Reward to Merit, and be a grateful Satisfaction to many deserving Officers.

This proposition is probably now under Consideration; to extend it therefore at this Time, so as to embrace the Emoluments of Compensation, would I confess, be going beyond my own Ideas, and would perhaps be a means of preventing the Attainment of the *Rank* I have solicited. I would advise therefore to a suspension at least, for the present if not a suppression of the Memorial, which has been handed me. I am &c.¹⁹

To MAJOR GENERAL LOUIS LE BÈQUE DU PORTAIL

Head Quarters, May 10, 1783.

Sir: I have been favored with your Letter of the 29th. of April. By your Letter of the 16th. I certainly understood

19. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

the Officers of your Department to be included with yourself.

You have anticipated my Wishes, in having, as you mention, communicated your Sentiments on a peace Establishment, so far as relates to your Department, to a Committee of Congress. As you promise to send me a Copy of it, I shall be gratified by a Sight of your Ideas on the Subject.

As you mention it to be very inconvenient for you to come to Camp, I do not at present recollect any thing of Importance enough to render your Attendance here necessary. I am &c.⁴²

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON

Head Quarters, May 14, 1783.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 11th.

As you will have the best Opportunity to be acquainted with the particular Circumstances, and uneasinesses of your Line, I must desire that you will exercise your best Judgment and Discretion, and give furloughs to such persons as you shall find necessary and proper, and for such Time as you judge best.

The Subject of the Memorial of the Non Commissioned Officers, I shall take into Consideration.⁵³ I am &c.⁵⁴

42. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

53. In Huntington's letter of May 11 was forwarded a memorial from the sergeants of the Connecticut line. Huntington stated "they and the Soldiery are very impatient; particularly some who Families at Home to provide for: if these could have furloughs, it would be a great Favor to them." Huntington's letter is in the *Washington Papers*. It is indorsed "Petition sent to Congress, 21st."

54. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, May 14, 1783.

Sir: I approve of your sentiments given to the Officers commanding the Regiments at West Point, respecting the carrying into execution the sentence of Courts Martial upon the Rioters mentioned in your Letter of this day, and they will stand justified with me.

I am loth at this time to consent to the absence of Officers from their Corps, wanting their influence as much as possible, to quiet and allay the discontents of the Soldiers, but in cases, where you find extraordinary circumstances require it, I submit to your giving liberty for such Officers to be absent for a short time. I am &c.

P.S. If there are any Non Commissioned Officers or Soldiers whose mutinous dispositions appear to arise from their anxiety to be discharged the Army, you have my full permission to give them Furloughs for any length of time they wish; we are better without them than with them. The same liberty for furloughing Men of the Connecticut Regts. was yesterday given to Genl. Huntington.⁵⁵

[MS.H.S.]

55. In the writing of David Cobb.

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, May 15, 1783.

Dear Sir: Having occasion to go to Poughkeepsie for the purpose of transacting some business with his Excellency Govr. Clinton, I shall sett off for that place this Morning, and shall not probably return until tomorrow Evening. I give you this information, that you may during my absence take upon yourself the superintendence of the Army. With great regard etc.⁵⁹

[MS.H.S.]

To MAJOR GENERAL LOUIS LE BÈQUE DU PORTAIL

Head Quarters, May 18, 1783.

Sir: I have received your favor by Capt. Segond, and have informed that Gentleman that I have the same Ideas of the Impropriety of the Appointment he solicits as you express in your Letter. I have however written a Line to the Secretary at War in his Behalf, mentioning his Circumstances, and leaving it entirely with Genl Lincoln whether to apply to Congress in favor of his Promotion or not, as he shall think Circumstances and Capt Segond's particular Case may render proper. I am &c.⁷¹

59. In the writing of David Humphreys.

71. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To COLONEL RICHARD BUTLER

Head Quarters, May 21, 1783.

Dr. Sir: I accept with pleasure your Congratulations on the Arrival of Peace, an Event happy to the Country, and glorious for those who have had the immediate Concern in its procurement.

The Arrangement of a Peace Establishment, Congress have now under their Consideration; But as I am totally Ignorant of what will be the Result of their Determinations, it is impossible for me to say how far it will be in my Power to comply with your Wishes. I can only say, that my Inclination to serve you will not be wanting, and a Recollection of your Merits and Services will present you to my Mind, should an Occasion offer itself, when you can with Honor and Propriety be provided for.

Agreeable to your request, the Appointment of Lieutt Pratt⁷⁶ as Q Master, and Lieut Peaty⁷⁷ as Pay Master to the 3d Pennsylvania Regiment, are announced in Genl orders. I am &c.⁷⁸

To THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF TROOPS IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY

Head Quarters, May 21, 1783.

Sir: His Excellency the Governor of this State

76. Lieut. John Pratt.

77. Lieut. Erskurius Beatty (Beaty). He served to November, 1783.

78. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

having determined to reestablish Civil Government in the County of West Chester, and having directed the Honble Chief Justice Morris⁷⁹ to repair to that County for the purpose; It is my Order, that you, with the Troops under your Command should be aiding and assisting, so far as may be necessary, in carrying the intention of His Excellency the Governor into effect.

To accomplish this with the greater facility, you will remove your Corps to the neighbourhood of Mile Square, or such place as shall be agreed upon between Chief Justice Morris and yourself, as best calculated to promote the object in view, as well as most convenient for covering your Men, and obtaining the necessary supply of Provision, which I conceive will be forwarded by Water.

You will pay the strictest attention to prevent the Troops from committing any outrages or excesses on the persons or property of the Inhabitants, under pretext of their having been disaffected; You will not suffer any Officer or Soldier, on any consideration whatever to pass on to York Island, unless by permission from Head Quarters; And in all matters of Civil Resort you will apply to the Chief Justice for his opinion thereon to which you will conform, and to whose requisition for military aid you will also yield implicit obedience.

This Order is to be delivered over to the relieving Officer and to be considered as a standing Regulation.⁸⁰

79. Richard Morris.

80. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To MAJOR JEAN BERNARD GAUTHIER DE MURNANS

Head Quarters, Newburg, May 24, 1783.

This Certifies that Monsr. de Murnan has held the rank of Major of Engineers in the service of the United States from the Month of March 1778 until the present day; that he appears to have been actuated with great zeal and fidelity in performing his duty, so far as his services have fallen under my immediate observation, and that he having served a considerable part of the War, under the

particular Orders of Major General the Marquis de la Fayette; the Chevalier Du Portail Major Genl of Engineers in the American service; the Chevalier de Choisy Marl. de Camp in the Armies of his Most Christian Majesty; the American Major Generals Sullivan and Howe; and Beige. Genl Hand now Adjut Genl of the American Army, hath obtained from each of those Officers honorary testimonies of service, setting forth that his conduct as Major of Engineers had met with their approbation, and certifying his activity, intelligence, and bravery on all occasions.⁸⁶

To EGBERT BENSON, LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH, AND DANIEL PARKER

Head Quarters, May 27, 1783.

Gentlemen: Mr George Readhead and Mr John Johnson, by

86. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

whom you will receive this, are empowered by the State of So Carolina, to demand and receive all the public and private property, which has been carried off from that State, by the British Forces.

They have been directed by the Delegates of So Carolina, to take my Instructions, respecting the Mode of Conducting their Business.

Sir Guy Carleton will doubtless expect all Applications of this nature to be made to him thro you. I have therefore advised these Gentlemen to call on you, and take your directions in the Matter. And I have to request that you will be pleased to give them whatever Information and Assistance is in your power, towards effecting the Objects of their Mission. I am &c.

N B. Not having had the pleasure to hear from you since your Appointment, I will thank you for a Line, 'tho it be only to inform me that you have *nothing* to Communicate.⁸⁹

To BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES ARMAND-TUFFIN

Head Quarters, May 28, 1783.

Sir: I received your favor of the 20th, respectg the Case of Lieut Colo Ternant; but not having been furnished with the Resolution of Congress of the 26th of March, promoting you to the

89. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

Rank of Brigadier, I am unable to do any thing more than to refer him to the Secty at War and to Congress, from whom I trust he will experience that Justice and Attention, which his Merits and Services require, and which may be consistent with the Rules of propriety, and the general Good of the American Army.

I have written to Lt Colo Ternant and have given him a Certificate of his Services, which I hope will be useful to him. I am etc.⁹⁰

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL JEAN BAPTISTE TERNANT

Head Quarters, May 28, 1783.

Sir: I have been favored with your Letter of the 20th. with the several papers inclosed. I have attentively perused the whole; but the Resolution of the 26th of March, by which Genl Armand obtained his promotion, not having been forwarded to me, I am unable to judge of the Terms of its expression, or the propriety of your reasoning thereon; nor can I say how far your Observations on the intention or extent of his promotion will apply.

The Secretary at War being fully acquainted with your subject in particular, as well as the general Rules and Practice of Promotions, I am obliged to leave the Matter with him;

90. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

confiding in his Judgment, and trusting, that, from a knowledge of your Merits and Services, with which I am persuaded he is very well impressed, he will be disposed to interest himself in your Favor with Congress, in every Way that will be consistent with the Rules of Propriety and the general Welfare of the Army.

Willing to contribute what is in my power, to the fulfillment of your Wishes, I have made out a Certificate of your Services, the best my recollection would enable me to furnish. The Gentlemen to whom you have referred me not being present with the Army, I have not had the Assistance of their Information. I hope however it may prove to your Acceptance and be conducive to your Benefit.

You will be pleased to make such Use of it as you shall find proper. With much Esteem etc.⁹¹

CERTIFICATE

Mr. John Ternant was appointed one the sub Inspectors to the Army under my immediate Command in March 1778 and in the Month of July following was appointed Deputy Quarter Mr. General.

In September 1778 Congress were pleased to promote Mr. Ternant to the Rank of Lt. Colonel and to appoint him Inspector to the Troops in the States of So. Carolina and Georgia, where he served under Major Generals Howe and Lincoln until he was made Prisoner in Charles Town when that place

91. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

surrendered to the British.

Lt Colo. Ternant Being Exchanged in the Winter of 1781 was appointed Lieut. Colo. of the Legion commanded by the then Colo. Armand Marquis de la Rouerie; he at the same time was appointed Inspector to the Southern Army Commanded by Maj Genl. Greene under whom he has served Since that time.

During the time that Lt. Colo. Ternant Served under my immediate Command he evinced a Zeal, intelligence and bravery which entitled him to the Character of an excellent Officer; And from the Testimony of the Generals under whom he has since served it appears that he has supported that Character throughout the whole of his Services.⁹²

To COLONEL HENRY BEEKMAN LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters, May 29, 1783.

Sir: I am this moment favored with your Letter of the 26th. and in reply have to inform you, that it is probable the whole of the Levies will soon be discharged, and that in the mean time I have written to Col Willet⁹³ respecting the case of Ricd Dickenson, authorizing and directing that he should be immediately dismissed, if, upon an investigation any unfairness should

92. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

93. On this same day (May 29) Washington wrote to Colonel Willett: "I inclose you a representation respecting a Soldier of your Regt. if there has been any unfairness in the enlistment I request he may be immediately discharged; or if the peculiarity of the circumstances are such as, in your opinion, will justify the measure, you will consider yourself authorized to carry the same into effect." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

appear to have been made use of by the recruiting Officer, or if the peculiarity of the circumstances should justify the measure. This is all I conceived myself justified in doing in the present situation of Matters and I request you will believe I am etc.⁹⁴

To WILLIAM DUER AND DANIEL PARKER

May 29, 1783.

Sir: The enclosed Complaints's⁹⁵ against your Department, are of so serious and alarming Complexion, that I

94. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

95. The complaints of the troops were that the provision issues were irregular and the provisions themselves bad and unwholesome. Copies of letters from Dayton to Heath, Scott to Stark, Stark to Heath, and Paterson to Heath, all dated May 28, 1783, and Van Cortlandt to Heath, Reid to Stark, and Heath to Washington, all dated May 29, 1783, were inclosed in this letter to Duet and Parker. The originals of these letters are in the *Washington Papers*.

cannot omit to transmit them to you, with my earnest request that the Causes may be immediately removed, and that complete Satisfaction may be given to the Army.

I am also informed from West point, that the Measles is very prevalent among the Troops in that Garrison, which absolutely requires their being supplied with a proportion of fresh Meat, for those who are sick. I am &c.⁹⁶

To EGBERT BENSON, LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH, AND DANIEL PARKER⁴⁰

Orange Town, May 8, 1783.

Whereas His Excellency Sir Guy Carleton Commander in Chief of the British Troops in the Posts now occupied by His Britannic Majesty contiguous to the Atlantic, did on the

96. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

40. American Commissioners to superintend the British embarkation at New York.

14th of April last, write to the Honble. R. R. Livingston one of the American Ministers, in the Words following to wit.

New York, April 14, 1783.

Sir: As I observe in the 7th Article of the Provisional Treaty it is agreed, after stipulating that, "all Prisoners on both sides shall be set at liberty," that His Britannic Majesty shall, with all convenient speed, and without causing any destruction, or carrying away any Negroes or other property of the American Inhabitants, withdraw all his Armies, Garrisons, sons, and Fleets from the United States, and from every Port, Place and Harbour within the same &c." and as Embarkations of Persons and property are on the point of being made, I am to request that Congress would be pleased to empower any person or persons on behalf of the United States to be present at New York, and to assist such persons as shall be appointed by me, to inspect and superintend all Embarkations which the Evacuation of this place may require, and that they will be pleased to represent to me every infraction of the Letter or Spirit of the Treaty, that redress may be immediately order'd.

Whereas Congress did, on the 24th of April 1783 refer the said Letter to me, with directions to take such Measures for carrying into effect the several matters therein mentioned as to me should seem expedient: and whereas I have thought it expedient and necessary that Commissioners should be appointed for the purposes aforesaid and to carry fully into execution, the Instructions

of Congress "for obtaining the delivery of all Negroes and other property of the Inhabitants of the United States in the possession of the British forces, or any Subjects of or Adherents to His Britannic Majesty."

I do therefore, in Virtue of the Powers vested in me as aforesaid, hereby nominate, constitute and appoint you the said Egbert Benson, William S. Smith and Daniel Parker Commissioners on behalf of the United States for the purposes before mentioned, and you are to attend particularly to the due execution of that part of the 7th Article of the Provisional Treaty, where it is agreed His Britannic

Majesty shall withdraw his Armies &c from the United States “without causing any destruction, or carrying away any Negroes or other property of the American Inhabitants.” And you the aforesaid Egbert Benson, William S. Smith, and Daniel Parker, or any two of you, are hereby fully authorized and empowered to be present at New York, and to assist such persons as shall be appointed by the Commander in Chief of the British Forces in New York, to inspect and superintend all Embarkations, which the Evacuation of that place may require, and you are to represent to the said Commander in Chief, every infraction of the Letter or Spirit of the aforesaid Treaty, to the End that redress may be obtained; furnishing me at the same time with duplicates of all such representations or communications as may be made by you on the subject; with the Result thereof and making a general Report of your Proceedings at the determination of this Commission.

Relying on your patriotism, fidelity and

abilities, I do hereby further authorize and empower you, in transacting the aforesd business, to act in conformity to your own judgments and discretion, in all such matters and things relative thereto, as are not particularly specified herein. This Commission to continue in force until the Evacuation of New York shall be compleatly effected, unless sooner revoked.⁴¹

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, May 18, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have been favored with two Letters from you. One under the 16th. of March, the other of the 3d of April. And Yesterday I had the pleasure to receive that of the 20th. of April, by your express Boat to Philadelphia.

The subjects of the two first are superceded by the Arrival of Peace; an Event on which I return you my Congratulations with the utmost Sincerity and Cordiality: an Event, to the Attainment of which, it is your happiness, to have contributed a very noble part, the Impression of which Is deeply fixed in the Minds of your fellow Citizens, and the Recollection of which will not be easily obliterated from their grateful Breasts.

41. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys, with some minor changes by Egbert Benson.

Pleasing as the Prospect of Peace is to me, I feel that it must be very grateful to you, as it relieves you from a Load of Care, Toil and Anxiety, which I can easily conceive, from the Experience I have had in Situations not dissimilar to yours.

The Mode you propose of getting the Troops to the Northward by Water, if it can be effected, I think an eligible one; and that they should be removed as soon as possible, before the extreme Heats come on; but this must be submitted to the Secretary at War, who must form the necessary Arrangements: So must also the Disposition of the Cavalry Horses; an Act of Congress for their Sale, having passed the 17th of April. I shall write to Genl Lincoln on this Subject, and give it as my Opinion that unless Congress should have some particular reasons against it, that the Troops should be early removed to the Northward, and that their Removal, if possible, should be effected by Water. Humanity, as well as policy, dictates this Measure. It will save the fatigues of a toilsome and Sultry March, in the most disagreeable Season; and will bring them to the Northward in the most expeditious, as well as the least expensive, and easiest manner. It will also prevent the Ravages and Distress which the Country, thro' which they must pass by Land, would probably experience.

The Arrangement of a peace Establishment, which is now under the Consideration of Congress, prevents my being so explicit on the Removal of the Troops, as I should otherways be, was I informed of their final Intentions; but I take it for granted that none of the Pennsylvania or Maryland Troops will be retained to

Garrison any of the Southern Posts, because the Times of their Inlistment, are generally I believe, for the War. General Lincoln I think will be decisive with you on this Head.

I have at Times through the Course of this Winter, had much Anxiety from the Disposition of the Troops in this Department: but happily the prospects of Peace have given me much relief; and we shall I hope, be able to quit the Field without any disgraceful Excesses. The principal Uneasiness now remaining, arises from an Anxiety and Impatience of the *Men for the War* who have their Minds impressed with an Idea that the War is at an End, and that they are entitled to their Discharges. If the Definitive Treaty is not too long delayed, I have a Hope, that even this Circumstance will pass over easier than has been feared.

I shall leave to your own Judgment and Discretion, to determine when Circumstances can admit of your coming to the Northward. I will only add that I shall be extremely happy in an Opportunity to take you by the Hand and to felicitate you on the glorious and happy Issue of our Toils. I have the honor etc.

P S. just at closing this Letter, yours of the 4th of April, covering the Returns for the Month of March, came to Hand.⁷²

72. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

***To BRIGADIER GENERAL MOSES HAZEN**

Newburgh, June 1, 1783.

Sir: In the dispute which subsists between you and Majr Reed⁹⁷ I have pursued the advice of a Board of General Officers, and have done every thing in my power to give satisfaction to you, and the complaining Officers of your Regimt. and can only lament that the Measures which have been adopted have failed of the wished for effect; especially as the Court have reported "they cannot find reason to justify the assertions alluded to in the said orders."⁹⁸

[Your Letter, with the papers respectg Lieut Smart, I have transmitted to Govr Livingston, with a request to him, that he would consider the Case; and if any legal Remedy can be had, that he would be pleased to suggest the Mode to you, for Lieut Stuarts Relief.]⁹⁹ I am etc.

To MAJOR GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM

Head Quarters, June 2, 1783.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 20 of May I received with much pleasure. For I can assure you, that, among the many

97. Maj. James Randolph Reid.

98. See General Orders, Apr. 3, 1783.

99. The portion within brackets is in the writing of Johanthan Trumbull, jr.

worthy and meritorious Officers, with whom I have had the happiness to be connected in Service, through the Course of this War, and from whose cheerful Assistance and Advise, I have received much support and Confidence in the various and trying Vicissitudes of a Complicated Contest, the

Name of a Putnam is not forgotten; nor will it be, but with that Stroke of Time which shall obliterate from my Mind, the remembrance of all those Toils and Fatigues, through which we have struggled for the preservation and Establishment of the Rights, Liberties and Independence of our Country.

Your Congratulations on the happy prospects of Peace and Independent Security, with their attendant Blessings to the United States, I receive with great Satisfaction; and beg that you will accept a Return of my Gratulations to you, on this auspicious Event; an Event, in which, great as it is in itself, and glorious as it will probably be in its Consequences, you have a right to participate largely, from the distinguished part you have contributed towards its attainment.

But while I contemplate the greatness of the Object for which we have contended, and felicitate you on the happy Issue of our Toils and Labors, which have terminated with such general Satisfaction, I lament that you should feel the ungrateful Returns of a Country in whose Service you have exhausted your Bodily Health and expended the Vigor of a youthful Constitution. I wish however that your Expectations of returning Sentiments of Liberality may be verified. I have a hope they may. But should they not, your

case will not be a singular One. Ingratitude has been experienced in all Ages, and Republics in particular have ever been famed for the exercise of that unnatural and Sordid Vice.

The Secretary at War, who is now here, informs me that you have ever been considered as entitled to full pay, since your Absence from the field, and that you will be still considered in that Light 'till the Close of the War, at which period, you will be equally entitled to the same emoluments of half pay or Commutation, as other Officers of your Rank. The same Opinion is also given by the P M Genl, who is now with the Army, empowered by Mr Morris for the Settlement of all their Accounts, and who will attend to yours whenever you shall thing proper to send on for the purpose; which it will probably be best for you to do in a short Time.

I anticipate with pleasure the Day, and that I trust not far off, when I shall quit the busy Scenes of a military Employment, and retire to the more tranquil Walks of Domestic Life. In that, or whatever other Situation, Providence may dispose of my future Days, the Remembrance of the many friendships and Connections I have had the happiness to contract with the Gentlemen of the Army, will be one of my most grateful Reflections. Under this Contemplation and Impressed with the Sentiments of Benevolence and Regard, I commend you, my Dear Sir, my other Friends, and with them, the Interests and Happiness of our Dear Country, to the keeping and Protection of Almighty God. With great Truth etc.¹

1. The draft as in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull. jr.

To EGBERT BENSON, LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH, AND DANIEL PARKER

Head Quarters, June 2, 1783.

Gentlemen: I transmit you a Copy of a Resolution of Congress which passed the 26th ulto. Claiming Property of the United States &c. and remonstratg against sendg off Negroes. The purport of this Act you will collect from its perusal. I have only to request that you will be pleased to pay strict Attention to the Injunctions of Congress contained therein. I am &c.⁴

To WILLIAM DUER AND DANIEL PARKER

Head Quarters, June 3, 1783.

Gentlemen: Inclosed is the proceedings of a board of Generals and Officers commanding Corps, on an Enquiry into the execution of Contract.

In consequence thereof, the Commander in Chief desires to know your objections (if any you have) to the annulling the Agreement therein Mentioned and putting the

4. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

On June 2 Washington forwarded the resolve of May 26 to Sir Guy Carleton. "Your Excellency will be pleased to notice the Purport of this Act, and I am persuaded you will consider it with that Attention which you shall judge the Nature of Its Object requires." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

Army on the footing of the Original Contract.

I am directed also to call on Mr. Smith⁵ for the circumstances of the Charge said in the proceedings to have been made by him against sundry Officers of taking an allowance to induce their Soldiers to lay out their expected Pay in Goods at his Store, and for the names of the Officers particularly concerned therein. I am &c.⁶

5. Melancton Smith. He was a member of the firm of Duet & Parker.

6. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "B[enjamin] W[alker]."

TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL JEREMIAH OLNEY

Head Quarters, Newburgh, June 4, 1783.

Dr Sir: You will receive by this conveyance blank Discharges for the Non Commisssd Officers and Privates of the Rhode Island Regt enlisted for the War, which, under the restriction of the Endorsement are only to be considered as furloughs until farther Orders; you will be pleased to have them filled up and the Men permitted, under the direction of a proportionable number of Officers, to retire to the State immediately. Orders will soon be transmitted to the remainder of the Corps, for the regulation of their conduct.

The furloughed Men of the Rhode Island Regt will draw Provisions at Litchfield and Hartford in their way to the State. The Genl Orders on this subject were sent by the Post.

Should there be more furloughs than you have occasion for, you will be cautious to have such care taken of the residue as will absolutely prevent their being made use of for improper purposes. I am
etc.¹⁰

10. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

On June 4 Trumbull wrote to Heath that Washington approved his forming four regiments of the Massachusetts men remaining after the discharge of those for the war. Four corps of officers were to be formed by agreement. "If that Mode should fail, other Measures will be directed when found necessary." Trumbull's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

To MAJOR THOMAS LANSDALE

Head Quarters, June 5, 1783.

Sir: The Detachment of Maryland Troops under your Orders are to be marched to their own State in the most easy and convenient manner for themselves and the Inhabitants of the Country through which they pass; the route will be by Pompton, Princeton, Philadelphia and Wilmington to Baltimore, at each of which Places Provisions may be drawn.

It will be the most eligible mode to send forward immediately an Officer to Majr. Genl Smallwood for the purpose of procuring Inlistments and ascertaining which Men are entitled to furloughs in consequence of the Resolution of Congress on the 26th Ulto. The Honble the Secy at War hath been pleased to engage that the necessary Instructions and Papers for the purpose will be forwarded without delay, these will probably be in readiness by your arrival.

Relying on your attention to preserve good order and the reputation of your Corps, and wishing you and them an agreeable march. I am etc.¹¹

11. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICHARD VARICK

Head Quarters, June 5, 1783.

D Sir: His Excellency directs me to reply to your favor of the 3d. and to mention that his principle Wish is, to have the business completed as soon as may be; to effect which he will not be averse to having the Books a little chequered¹² if you find it necessary; however, he leaves to your Judgment and Discretion, the choice of the Expedients mentioned in your Letter. The Definitive Treaty is tho't to be near at Hand, the Arrival of which, will probably take the Genl from this place.

His Excellency thinks it best, as you propose, to procure the three Half Volumes.¹³ If you will send their particular Size and Thickness, it is tho't that the best mode of obtaining them will by means of the Contractors, from N York, which will be attempted as soon as you furnish us with the necessary Directions. I am &c.¹⁴

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, June 6, 1783.

Sir: Before I make a reply to the Subject of the

12. Varick's letter of June 3 stated: "I should be 10th to chequer his [Mr. Taylor's] Volumes with Mr. Sickels's Writing, possibly for a few days only, and then to be completed by Mr. Taylor."

13. That is, of half the thickness.

14. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "[Jonathan] T[rumbu]ll [Jr.]."

Address of the Generals and Officers Commanding the Regiments and Corps of this Army presented by yourself yesterday.¹⁵ I entreat that those Gentlemen will accept my warmest acknowledgment for the confidence they have been pleased to repose in me, they may be assured it shall never be abused; and I beg they will be persuaded that as no man can possibly be better acquainted than I am with the past merits and services of the Army, so no one can possibly be more strongly impressed with their present ineligible situation, feel a keener sensibility at their distresses, or more ardently desire to alleviate or remove them; but it would be unnecessary perhaps to enter into a detail of what I have done, and what I am still attempting to do in order to assist in the accomplishment of this interesting purpose; let it be sufficient to observe, I do not yet despair of success; for I am perfectly convinced that the States cannot without involving themselves in National bankruptcy and ruin refuse to comply with the requisitions of Congress; who, it must be acknowledged, have done every thing in their power to obtain ample and compleat Justice for the Army, and whose great object in the present measure undoubtedly was, by a reduction of expence to enable the Financier to make the three Months Payment to the Army, which on all hands has been agreed to be absolutely and indispensibly necessary, to explain this matter I beg leave to insert an extract of a Letter from the Superintendent of Finance dated the 29 Ulto.

It is now above a Month since the

15. The original signed by Heath in behalf of the others is in the *Washington Papers*. The distresses of the officers resulted from the resolve of Congress of May 26 and the General Order of June 2, based upon that resolve. The officers prayed that the operation of the order be suspended until Congress could be informed "of the wretched situation into which the army must be plunged, by a conformity to it."

Committee conferred with me on that Subject, and I then told them no Payment could be made to the Army but by means of a Paper Anticipation and unless our Expenditures were immediately and considerably reduced even that could not be done. Our Expenditures have nevertheless been continued and our revenues lessen the States growing daily more and more remiss in their Collections, the Consequence is that I cannot make Payment in the manner first intended the Notes issued for this purpose would have been payable at two four and Six Months from the date, but at present they will be all at Six Months and even that will soon become impracticable unless our Expences be immediately curtailed.

I shall cause such Notes to be issued for three Months Pay to the Army and I must intreat, Sir, that every influence be used with the States to absorb them together with my other engagements by Taxation.

Three days ago a messenger was dispatched by me to urge the necessity of forwarding these Notes with the greatest possible expedition.

Under this State of circumstances I need scarcely add, that the expence of every day in feeding the whole Army will add very considerably to the inability of the public to discharge the debts already incurred, at least for a considerable time to come.

Altho' the Officers of the Army very well know my official situation, that I am only a servant of the Public and that it is not for me to dispense with Orders which it is

my duty to carry into execution, Yet as furloughs in all Services are considered as a Matter of indulgence and not of compulsion, as Congress I am persuaded entertain the best disposition towards the Army, and as I apprehend in a very short time the two principle Articles of complaint will be removed; until the further pleasure of Congress can be known I shall not hesitate to comply with the wishes of the Army under these reservations only, that Officers sufficient to conduct the Men who choose to receive furloughs will attend them either on furlough or by detachment, the propriety and necessity of this measure must be obvious to all, it need not therefore be enforced. And with regard to the Non Commisd. Officers and Privates such as from a peculiarity of circumstances wish not to receive furloughs at this time will give in their names by 12 o'Clock to morrow to the Commanding Officers of their regiments that on a report to the Adjutant General an equal Number of Men engaged for three Years may be furloughed which will make the saving of expence exactly the same to the public.

I cannot but hope the Notes will soon arrive and that the settlement of Accounts may be completed by the assistance of the Pay Masters in a very few days, in the mean time I shall have the honor of laying the sentiments of the Generals and Officers Commanding Regiments and Corps before Congress; they are expressed in such a decent candid and affecting manner that I am certain every mark of attention will be paid to them. I have the honor etc.¹⁶

[MS.H.S.]

16. In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To COLONEL MICHAEL JACKSON

Head Quarters, June 7, 1783.

Sir: In order to carry the Arrangements resulting from the Resolution of Congress of the 26th of May into execution, it is His Excellency's the Commander in ChieFs pleasure that you should return to the Army immediately with the Men of the Regt. who were inlisted for the War, and such proportionable number of Officers as are to be furloughed under the sd Act; it will also be necessary for your Adjt to be in Camp to register the furloughs.

Before you leave the remainder of the Reg. on the Lines it will likewise be expedient for you to ascertain which of the Officers of the Regt will choose to remain in service with the Corps which will be formed from the three Years Men; without this information it will be difficult if not impossible to make the Arrangements complete. I am etc.²⁰

20. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphreys."

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, June 8, 1783.

Sir: His Excellency directs me to reply to the several Queries contained in your Letter of this Day. And to inform you that the mode you propose for officering the four Regiments, is perfectly agreeable to him; or any other Method that you shall find necessary to accommodate to the Desires of the Gentlemen concerned, so as to make the Matter as agreeable as possible to them; but this he leaves entirely to your judgment and Discretion.

His Excellency concieves there is no necessity of any other permission or Credentials to the Officers who retire, than what is expressed in the Genl Orders, in Consequence of the Resolutions of Congress of 26th May.

The Waiters mentioned, who are of the

three Years men, are permitted to attend their Officers; but this will be done with Caution and they must be furnished with Discharges which being prepared, will be signed at Headquarters and delivered to them. I am &c.²⁶

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, June 8, 1783.

Dear Sir: In ansr to the question which has been proposed, whether the Music are entitled to fire Arms, under the Resolution of Congress of the 23d of April, I am to give it as my opinion, they are not; but that they should be allowed to take their Drums and Fifes, which is the mode that has been adopted respecting the Music who have been furloughed from this Cantonment. I am etc.²⁷

[MS.H.S.]

To COLONEL HENRY JACKSON

Head Quarters, June 8, 1783.

Dear Sir: Having before this Time given my Opinion

26. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "J[onathan] Tr[umbul]l Jr."

27. In the writing of David Humphreys.

that it was not the Intention of Congress, by their Resolution of 23d Apl. that the Music should have Arms delivered to them at being discharged; but that they should take with them their Drums and fifes; and this Determination having been carried into Effect by the Regiments which are gone. It is now too late to make any Alteration. But was not this the Case, reasons may be adduced which would operate against the Request made in your joint Letter of the 7th Instant; the Music havg had but an easy share of Duty compared with the other Soldiers, an additional Pay, with their Music found by the Public, It is supposed that their Circumstances will fully Ballance the Gratuity intended by Congress.²⁸

To SIMEON DE WITT

Head Quarters, June 8, 1783.

Sir: In Consequence of your Letter to me of the 4th instant, I have mentioned to the Corer in Chief your purpose to obtain permission for publishing a Map of the State of War in America. His Excellency directs me to inform you, that the Measure is perfectly agreeable to him, and the proposition meets his full Approbation; it being his Wish to see it accomplished in an accurate Manner, and at as early a period as the nature

28. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

of the Work will admit. I am etc.³⁴

To BRIGADIER GENERAL MOSES HAZEN

Head Quarters, June 9, 1783.

Sir: His Excellency the Comr in Chief directs me to inform you, that since Writing to you this Mornng. he finds that Colo. Stewart, at your Application, is going to Pompton, for the purpose of mustering your Regiment.

This Opportunity formg a good Conveyance, and as it Will at the same Time save Delay, His Excy has directed a Number of Discharges to be sent by Colo Stewart, which are to be used for such Men of the Regiment as are inclined to take Benefit from them. The General expects that Colo Stewart will take from you a Return of such Men as do not choose to receive their Discharges. I am &c.³⁵

To COLONEL ELISHA SHELDON

Head Quarters, June 9, 1783.

Sir: Your Regiment of Light Dragoons, being

34. The draft is in the writing of and the letter sent was signed by Jonathan Trumbull

35. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "[Jonathan] Tr[umbu]ll."

to be dissolved, in Consequence of the Resolution of Congress of the 26th. day of May, grantg furloughs to the Men for the War; and my particular furlough given to those for three Years.³⁶

You will suffer the Men for the War, who will have their Discharges, to take with them their Arms, Accoutrements and Ammunition, agreeable to General Orders. The Arms, Ammunition and Accoutrements in the Hands of the Three Years Men, together with the Public Property of every kind now in the Regt. you will deliver over to the Qr. MGenl, or such Person as he shall appoint, takg. Receipts that they may be conveyed to Camp, for the Benefit of the United States.³⁷

36. The following draft of the form of a furlough, dated June, and in the writing of David Humphreys, is in the *Washington Papers* under date of June 9, 1783: "Permission is hereby granted to in the 2nd Regt. of Light Dragoons, to be absent on furlough until the first of August next, at which time, he is to return to the Army, and report himself to the Commanding Officer at West Point, unless he shall be sooner discharged, or this leave of absence farther extended by Proclamation. Registered in the Books of the Regt."

37. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, June 10, 1783.

Sir: I am favored with your Letter of the 8th inclosing the Instructions of the Secry at War on the subject of erecting an Arsenal and Magazine at West Point; the Plan I conceive is a very eligible one. As soon as we shall have passed through the present business of furloughing the Men engaged for the War, it is probable that the whole or at least a part of the Troops in this Cantonment will be removed to West Point: where such number as shall be judged expedient may be employed on that service. I am &c.⁴⁰

[MS.H.S.]

To EGBERT BENSON, LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH, AND DANIEL PARKER

Head Quarters, June 10, 1783.

Gentlemen: I have been favored with your Letter of the 30th of May, containing several Queries respectg the Extent of your Commission.

That you would find Embarrassments in the Execution of your Instructions is no more than I expected; but

40. In the writing of David Humphreys.

to remove, is not so easy as to foresee them.

It is exceedingly difficult for me, not being a Witness to the particular Cases, or acquainted with the Circumstances which must fall under your View, in Course of the Evacuation, to give you a precise Definition or Character of the Acts which you are to represent as Infractions of the Treaty; nor can I undertake to give an official Construction of any particular Expression or Term of the Treaty; which must, in Cases of Ambiguity, or different Interpretations, be explained by the Sovereigns of the two Nations, or their Commissioners, appointed for that purpose.

As your Instructions from me, are given in consequence of the Directions of Congress, and are grounded entirely on their Resolutions, which have been passed, in Compliance with Sir Guy Carletons own application; and for directg measures to be taken to obtain the *Delivery* of Property in possession or Controul of the British Troops; which latter Case, is not provided for by the Articles of the Treaty; I must be silent on the Subject; leaving it to your own good Judgment and Discretion to execute your Commission in the best Manner you can, from a critical Attention to the particular Circumstances and Acts which will fall under your View, compared with the Terms of the Treaty, and the Expressions of your Instructions.

It however appears to me, that your reply to Mr Elliot,⁴¹ was very pertinent and proper; for as the *power* is not in our Hands, it matters very little for us to devise Modes,

41. Andrew Elliot. He was royal Chief Justice and Lieutenant Governor of New York.

which we are not able to Controul; but which may be evaded by those who are the Executors, leaving to us, the part only of remonstrating, without the Means of prevention. Indeed this Observation may be said to apply to every Act to which your Instructions will extend; so that in fact, I see little more that you will be able to do, than to be *Witnesses* to the Various Acts which will probably pass under your Cognizance, in Course of the Evacuation, whether they are the public Acts of the Come in Chief,

or those of Individuals; and which, if you judge them to be Infractions of either the Letter or Spirit of the Treaty, you are to represent to and remonstrate against to Sir Guy Carleton; leaving it with him, to give the Redress, or involve such Consequences as may Result from the Omission. I am &c.⁴²

To CAPTAIN ELIJAH HUNTER

Head Quarters, June 11, 1783.

Sir: To your Letter which was recd sometime in the Month of March last I have now to reply in writing, as I did then to a part of it verbally; but I must first make an apology for the long delay, and assure you it was owing to the accident of its being mislaid among a multitude of other papers, and not to any designed neglect or inattention.

42. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

The happy pacification which has been announced since the writing of your letter will now establish you in the quiet enjoyment of your possessions; and supercedes the necessity of my saying any thing except as to the point of light in which I viewed your political Character at the time when you was employed in a confidential manner. On this head I can (from my best recollection) be thus far explicit. The Recommendations given in your favor by Mr. Jay then President of Congress and Major General McDougall were such as induced me to repose great confidence in you, and to my own knowledge, after being employed in the manner abovementioned you obtained such intelligence, either by yourself or your Correspondents, of various things which passed within the British Lines, as was of considerable consequence to us. Under this recollection of circumstances I cannot hesitate to Certify, that I thought at the time and still conceive your services were of such an interesting Nature as entitled you to the good opinion and favorable Notice of your Countrymen. I am &c.⁶

CERTIFICATE TO COLONEL JEAN BAPTISTE GOUVION

[June, 1783.]

6. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

Whereas Colonel Gouvion of the Corps of Engineers hath served in the American Army with great reputation from an early Period of the War, until the happy termination of it in the acknowledgement

of the Independence of the United States. And whereas his services have been principally performed under my immediate Inspection; I have therefore thought proper to grant this Certificate of Service and make known the following facts, viz. that by an Agreement entered into between Doctr. Franklin the American Plenipotentiary at Paris and Monsr. Gouvion, the latter was to be considered as a Major in the service of the United States from the 13th day of Feby. 1777; that the United States in Congress assembled were pleased to confirm that Rank by a Resolution of the 8th of July 1777; that on the 17th of Novr in the same year 1777, Congress thought proper to promote him to the Rank of a Lieutenant Colonel, and that on the 16th of Novr 1781 he was by the same sovereign Power promoted to the Rank of a Colonel in their service.

And I do hereby farther Certify and make known that the said Colonel Gouvion hath in all these several Grades and in a series of important Operations acquitted himself to the Universal satisfactory of all with whom he has served; And particularly that he did exhibit such unquestionable proofs of bravery, activity, intelligence and skill in his profession at the successful Siege of the British Post of York in Virginia, as entitled him to very honorable Notice, and induced Congress to promote him to the Rank of a Colonel, as before specified, in testimony of their

Regard for his Merits and Abilities.⁶⁵

65. This draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM SMALLWOOD

Head Quarters, June 19, 1783.

Dr. Sir: In ansr to Your favor of the 2d. Ulto. I need only inform you, that Congress having taken measures in their Resolution of the 26th of May, for the eventual reduction of our force, and the Honble Secry at War having undertaken to carry that Resolution into execution so far as relates to the Troops South of the Delaware; it is probable you will have received his Orders on the subject, before this reaches you, otherwise they may soon be expected. I am etc.³⁹

To THE GENERAL OFFICERS OF THE ARMY⁴⁸

June 23, 1783.

Gentlemen: I am to request your opinions on the three following Questions, viz.

1st. Whether all the measures which were practicable and proper for giving satisfaction to Brigadr. General Hazen and a number of the Officers of his Corps, respecting Major Reid, have been pursued, or not?

48. Assembled, by request of the Commander in Chief, at headquarters, and which consisted of Major Generals Heath, Howe, and Steuben, and Brigadier Generals Huntington, Hand, and Greaton.

2dly. In case they have not, what farther Steps should be taken? and

3dly. Whether Major Reid ought to be arrested and brought to trial, on the charges exhibited against him by General Hazen and some of the Officers of his Corps, in their Letter of June 6th. 1783?

For your Information, I refer to you Gentlemen, all the original Papers on this subject, agreeably to the annexed Schedule, which together with the publications in General Orders, will make you fully acquainted with the State of Facts. I have the honor etc.⁴⁹

Schedule of Papers referred to: No. 1. Brigadr. Genl. Hazen's Letter and Memorial dated Pompton Jany. 14th. 1783. No. 2. Extract of a Letter from Genl. Washington to Brigadier Genl Hazen, Jany. 25th, 1783. No. 3. Opinion of the General Officers dated 24th. Jany. 1783. Copy inclosed in the preceding. No. 4. Brigadier Hazen's Letter 29th. Jany. covering Charges against the Judge Advocate. No. 5. Reference to a Board of General Officers in General Washington's Letter, dated Feby. 12th. 1783. (For the opinion of this Board, the appointment of a Court of Inquiry, and the result of their proceedings, vide General Orders.) No. 6 and 7th. Letters of the 6th and 7th of June, from Brigadier Hazen and some of the Officers of his Corps, exhibiting farther Charges against Major Reid.

49. The board reported (June 24) unanimously in the affirmative on the first question, and on the second and third, that Reid ought not to be arrested. These proceedings are in the *Washington Papers*.

No. 8. General Washington's answer to the preceding Letter.⁵⁰

To BRIGADIER GENERAL MOSES HAZEN

Head Quarters, June 24, 1783.

Sir: Altho I was fully satisfied that every possible measure has been pursued, in order to give satisfaction to yourself and some of the Officers of your Corps in the affair respecting Major Reid, and altho' the new subjects of complaint against that Officer as stated in their Letter of the 6 June, appeared to me to arise rather from a spirit of persecution, than a desire to promote Service, I hesitated to take any steps in the affair 'till I had submitted the whole of it to the General Officers with this Army; they have accordingly been assembled on the occasion and I now transmit you a Copy of their Proceedings. At the same time I cannot help expressing my sincere hope, that you will consider this as finishing an affair that has given so much trouble to the Army.

I am now, Sir, to reply to your Letter of the 12th. Inst. by Colo. Stewart. It contains no sufficient reason for your delaying to comply with my order to you of the 9th. to march with all possible dispatch to this Cantonment with those of your Corps who did not chuse to accept the furlough offered, and I must therefore desire, that you march *immediately* after the receipt of this. Every direction that can be necessary to put your

50. In the writing of David Cobb.

Corps on the same footing, with respect to Pay, as the rest of the Army, will certainly be given. I am etc.⁵¹

INSTRUCTIONS TO MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, June 25, 1783.

Sir: You are to take the command of the detachment ordered to march to Philadelphia in consequence of the Letter of the Presidt of Congress of the 21st instant; you will move with as much expedition as you can consistently with the health and comfort of the Troops. This Corps must be absolutely light and unincumbered with Baggage, having only two Peices of Field Artillery; you will make arrangements with the Qr Mastr. Genl for the transportation, and with the Contractors for a supply of Provisions and Rum. Your Route will be by Ringwood, Pompton, Morris Town and Princeton to Trenton, where it would be most convenient if you could make arrangements for embarking the Troops to proceed from thence by water to Philadelphia: but this must depend upon circumstances, and will require circumspection to prevent the Mutineers from taking advantage and annoying your landing.

The object of your Command is to suppress a mutiny which has taken place amongst a part of the Pennsylvania Troops, in the accomplishment of which you will

51. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

be governed by your own discretion until you can receive the Orders of Congress; should the tumult have subsided, you will meet directions from His Excellency the President countermanding your march, you will then return by easy Movements.

In all cases you will be pleased to pay particular attention to the order and discipline of the Troops, and you will regulate your Marches early in the Mornng or at Evening, in such manner, that the Men may rest in the heat of the day; and be as conveniently accommodated in every respect, as the nature of the circumstances will admit.⁵⁴

To MAJOR GENERALS BARON STEUBEN AND HENRY KNOX, BRIGADIER GENERAL EDWARD HAND, AND COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, June 25, 1783.

Gentlemen: I refer to your consideration A Memorial of Mr Hoaksley⁵⁵ with sundry other papers relative to the condemnation of Merchandize &c at York Town, said to have been carried in a Flag of Truce from N York to Virginia. After an investigation of the Papers and the examination of Mr Hoaksley you will please to report your Opinion whether any alteration and what,

54. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

55. Robert Hoakesly.

ought to be made in the former decision. I have the honour etc,⁵⁶

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, June 25, 1783.

Sir: The Commander in Chief desires you will have as much of the hard Bread, which was delivered by the late Contractors into Elderkin's⁵⁷ Store, issued to the Detachment as they can carry with them, and that you will have the remainder of that Bread served out occasionally, that it may not be lost by the Public, whose property it now is. I have the honor etc.⁵⁸

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, June 25, 1783.

Sir: His Excellency commands me to inform you he approves of the Arrangements you have made, and would have the party from the Lines follow in the manner you propose. General Howe will meet the Detachment in the Clove tomorrow mornng.

56. The draft is in the writing of and the letter sent was signed by David Humphreys.

57. John Elderkin. He was at one time a commissary at Fort Arnold.

58. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D[avid] H[umphreys]. A.D.C."

No Express or Information hath arrived from Philadelphia since you left Head Quarters last Evening. I have the Honor etc.⁵⁹

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, June 29, 1783.

Sir: His Excellency directs me to express to you his Concern for the Circumstance you mention of the Regts. being without their Compliment of Field Officers. It is unlucky, but the Inconvenience must at present remain without Remedy.

59. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphreys A. D. C."

At 5 o'clock p.m., this same day (June 25), Humphreys again wrote to Knox that from dispatches, just received from Philadelphia, "the necessity still exists for marching the Detachment as expeditiously as may be." Humphreys's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

Colo. Vose is unwell here. Colo. M. Jackson is incapable to perform the Duty. Nothing New has yet arrived from Phila. 'tis possible there may not be that Occasion for the Troops which has been apprehended. Most respectfully etc.⁶²

To BRIGADIER GENERAL MOSES HAZEN

Head Quarters, June 30, 1783.

Sir: You will be pleased to arrange the Remains of your Corps into two Companies upon the principles of the several Orders which have been issued in consequence of the Resolution of Congress of the 26th of May last; after Officering the two Companies, the remainder of the Officers will be in the same predicament with those of the different Lines not attached to any particular Corps, and may avail themselves of the choice given of remaining with the Army or going into the Country as may be most convenient for them. You will please to report the Arrangement as soon as may be. I am etc.⁶³

62. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "J—ll, Jr."

63. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL EDWARD HAND

Newburgh, July 3, 1783.

Dr Sir: In ansr to yours of last Eveng I should advise, that the Return of Hazens Regt. be sent back, that the Commanding Officer be informed that unless the Alteration respectg the promotion of Officers between the present and last Return is made on good authority the Return cannot be accepted, that the Officer signing becomes responsible for the veracity of it, and must abide the consequences if the Return should be found erroneous. These things may be communicated by way of caution, in a proper military manner, so as to produce the desired effect, without any difficulty. I am etc.⁶⁹

To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, July 4, 1783.

Sir: I have this Mornng been favoured with your two Letters of the 1st of July, with a Resolution of Congress directg you to proceed with the Troops to Phila.⁷⁰

The March of the detachment of Jackson's Regiment had not been countermanded by me; but I am

69. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

70. On July 1 Boudinot wrote to Washington that "Major General Howe, who arrived with his detachment, in this Neighbourhood last Evening. By the last Accounts from Philadelphia the Mutiny was entirely quelled and the Lancaster division had marched to that Town; but it is *expected* that after their Submission, Colo Humpton furloughed the greatest part of them." Boudinot's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

On July 4 Washington wrote a brief note of acknowledgment of the receipt of the above letter from Boudinot and expressed the hope that his (Washington's) letters of June 24 and 25 have been received. This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*.

glad to find it has been done under directions of Congress. I am &c.⁷¹

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, July 4, 1783.

Sir: Serjt. Barber has applied to Head Quarters for farther advice on the complaints exhibited against Lt Colo Popkin. His Excellency desires you will undertake the superintendence of the matter and the redress of real grievances (if any shall be found) so far as the nature of the circumstances will admit; in the mean time, should it be necessary for one or two of the Complainants to remain with the Army, to prosecute the affair, altho they should have been discharged, they may be allowed to draw Rations, if you judge their continuance necessary for the sake of obtaining Justice. I have the honor etc.⁷²

To BRIGADIER GENERAL EDWARD HAND

Headquarters, July 4, 1783.

The Return of Hazen's Reg't mentioned

71. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

72. The draft is in the writing of and the letter sent was signed by David Humphreys.

in your Letter of this date cannot be accepted, as no intimation has ever been given from Authority that the promotions in question have taken place, and until such official information shall be received no Notice can be taken of them, as I have already informed the Inspector of the Army in answer to his request to know in what manner the Persons said to be promoted are to be borne on the last Muster Rolls which have been taken of that Corps.

I shall immediately apply to Congress, and obtain certain information whether the promotions have actually been made or not. I am etc.⁷³

To COLONEL SAMUEL BLATCHLEY WEBB

Head Quarters, July 4, 1783.

Dear Sir: Agreeable to your request, I inclose to you a Certificate of your having acted in my family as one of my Aides D Camp.

I thank you for the friendly Expressions of Regard and Benevolence which you are pleased to use towards me and Mrs Washington. May you be attended in your future Walks of Life, with Health and

73. In the writing of David Humphreys. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by George A. Ball, of Muncie, Ind.

every Happiness, is the sincere Wish of etc.⁷⁴

CERTIFICATE TO COLONEL WEBB

Head Quarters, July 4, 1783.

I do hereby certify that, in the Year 1776, Colo S B Webb, was in my family, and acted in the Character of one of my Aides D Camp, the Duties of which Office he perform'd with fidelity, Integrity and Capacity, untill he was promoted to the Com'd. of a Regt in Service of the United States which called him to the pursuit of other Cares.⁷⁴

To WILLIAM DENNING⁷⁵

Head Quarters, July 5, 1783.

Sir: General Bayley who will deliver this has some accounts against the United States which he wishes to have early settled, and which he thinks are lodged in your Hands for that purpose.

This Gentleman has performed, to my knowledge, several beneficial Services for the U States, for which he deserves a just and reasonable Reward; should his Accounts

74. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

75. Continental auditor of accounts for the State of New York.

come under your Direction, I wish you to give him such Assistance and Dispatch in their Adjustment as may be in your power. I am etc.⁷⁶

To JUDGE ADVOCATE THOMAS EDWARDS

Head Quarters, July 7, 1783.

Sir: In Consequence of the late unhappy Irregularities of some of the Continental Troops in Phila. Genl Howe is directed to march with the Detachment under his Command to that City, where he is to enter into an Investigation of the Circumstances and Motives of this Affair; in Doing this it is probable it may lead to a Crimination and Trial of some Officers and others in the Military Line, which, from the Connection there may be with the Civil, will require that the procedure should be conducted with propriety, regularity and Delicacy.

His Excellly therefore thinkg it best, Requests that you will proceed immediately to Phila. where you will report yourself to Majr Genl Howe and in the Execution of your Office, afford him every

Assistance in your power, in conductg the unhappy Business committed to his Charge. Before you set off you will be so good as to call at Head Quarters. I am &c.⁷⁷

76. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

77. The draft is in the writing of and is signed: "[Jonathan] Tr[umbu]ll [jr]."

To MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR ST. CLAIR

Head Quarters, July 8, 1783.

Sir: I have been favored with your Letter of the 2d instant, respecting the unhappy Irregularities of the Troops in Philadelphia.

Your proposition for sending on the Judge Advocate appeared so just, that I have directed him to proceed immediately to Philadelphia and give all the Assistance in his power. I wish a happy Termination of this unlucky Affair.

The Pay Master General had left this before the Arrival of your Letter, for the purpose, among others, of formg his Arrangements for settling the Accounts of the Southern Troops. With much Regard etc.⁸¹

To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, July 8, 1783.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 3d inst dated at Trenton.

In Consequence of a Letter from M Genl St. Clair and at his Request, I have ordered the Judge Advocate to proceed to

81. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

Phila. This Gentlemans Assistance will probably be necessary in the prosecution of the Business intrusted to your Investigation. I have directed him to attend on you, and to give every Aid in his

power, in an Affair, that will need to be conducted with great propriety, Regularity and Delicacy. I am
&c.⁸²

To BARON STEUBEN

Head Quarters, July 8, 1783.

Dear Baron: I have duly recd. your two favors of the 5th by Express; it was indeed an unfortunate circumstance that the Resolution of the 12th of May,⁸³ respecting the frontier Posts could not have been sooner known and acted upon; as it is, we must make the best of what remains for us to arrange, on which subject it is not necessary for me to enlarge, as I shall probably have the pleasure of seeing you here personally in a short time; in the mean while I request you will believe that I am Dear Baron etc.

82. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

83. The resolve of May 12 gave full power to Washington for arranging with the British commander in Canada for taking over the western posts.

On July 8 Washington wrote briefly to Assistant Secretary at War William Jackson, acknowledging his letter of July 5 which inclosed the resolve of May 12. "The failure of this Resolution by an earlier Opportunity has been truly unlucky; the misfortune will be remedied in the best manner I am able to do it." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM HULL

July 8, 1783.

Sir: I am just favored with your Letter of Yesterday.

As the intent of sending the Troops on the Lines was to assist the Civil Authority any disposition of them best suited to answer that purpose will be perfectly agreeable to me.

Tho I could have no objection to your visiting N York under other circumstances, in your present situation I cannot help thinking it would tend to promote what I have carefully endeavoured to avoid, an intercourse between our Troops and the British; for, if the Restraint is broke thro' in one Instance,

the other Officers will claim the same indulgence; the same reasons may be urged against your sending in any of the Soldiers of your Command.

With respect to the expence attending your situation, I cannot say how far I am at liberty to make you any allowance for it; but you may believe I shall be happy in doing whatever may appear Just and reasonable. I am &c.⁸⁰

80. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

INSTRUCTIONS TO BARON STEUBEN

Head Quarters, Newburgh, July 12, 1783.

In Consequence of Powers in me vested for that purpose, I do hereby authorise and desire you to proceed, with such dispatch as you shall find convenient, into Canada, and there concert with Genl. Haldimand, or other British Commander in Chief, in that Province, upon all such measures as shall be found necessary for receiving possession of the posts now under his Command within the Territory ceded to the United States, and at present occupied by the Troops of his Britannic Majesty, and from which, his sd. Majestys Troops are to be withdrawn agreeably to the 7th. Article of the provisional Treaty between his sd. Majesty and the United States of America.

In accomplishing this negotiation, you will obtain, if possible, from General Haldimand, his Assurances and Orders for the immediate possession, by the United States, of the posts in question, or at least a Cession of them at an early day. But if this cannot be done, you will endeavour to procure from him, positive and definitive Assurances, that he will as soon as possible, give Information of the Time which shall be fixed on for the Evacuation of those posts, and that the Troops of his Britannic Majesty shall not be with drawn therefrom, until sufficient previous notice shall be given of that Event; that the Troops of the United States maybe ready to occupy the fortresses, the moment

they shall be abandoned by those of his Britannic Majesty.

You will propose to General Haldimand an Exchange of such Artillery and Stores, now in the posts, as you shall judge proper, and which you may think will be beneficial to the United States, agreeing with the British Commander in Chief, that an equal Number of Cannon, and an equal quantity and kind

of Stores, as he shall consent to exchange, shall be replaced to his Majesty, by the United States, at such time and place, as shall be fixed on by you for the purpose.

Having formed your arrangements with General Haldimand, you will be pleased to proceed, in such manner as you shall find best, to visit the several posts on the Frontier Territory of the United States, as far westward as to Detroit; view their different Situations, Strength and Circumstances; and, forming your Judgment of their relative position, and probable Advantage to the United States, you will report the same to me, with your Opinion of such of them as you shall think most expedient for the U States to retain and occupy; particularly, in passing the Lake Champlain, you will critically observe the Width of the Water at the northern End, and the Nature of the Ground adjoining; with a View to determine, whether there is any Spot, south of the 45th: Degree of North Latitude, and near our extreme Boundary, on which it will be convenient (should Congress judge it expedient) to erect fortifications which will command the Entrance from Canada into that Lake.

At Detroit you will find a very considerable

Settlement, consisting mostly of French people from Canada; to these you will be pleased to intimate the fullest Sentiments of the good Disposition in Congress and the Inhabitants of the United States for their welfare and protection; expressing at the same time to them, our Expectations of finding the like good Disposition in them towards us; the post which we may establish there, and any future Settlements which may be formed in their Neighbourhood, by the Subjects of the United States. As the advanced season, or other unforeseen Accidents, may prevent the American Troops from getting to that place, before it may be convenient for the British to withdraw their Garrison from that post; You will in this Event, do well to engage some one or more of the respectable and well affected Inhabitants of the District, to procure a Company of Militia (should there be any) or others, at the Expence of the United States, to take Charge of the Works and Buildings belonging to the Fortress; assuring them such reasonable pay therefor, as shall be deemed adequate to the Services, or which you may condition with them for. You will also make particular Enquiry, whether the farmers or merchants at Detroit are able and willing to supply an American Garrison at that post with provisions and other necessaries, and upon what Terms.

You will please to keep me informed as fully as you can, and as often as opportunity will permit, of the progress you make in the Execution of the Business committed to your Conduct.

Confiding perfectly in your general knowledge, good Sense, Judgment and Discretion, in the fullfillment of this Commission, I forbear any further detail of Instructions. But wish you success in your Negotiation, and pleasure and Security in the prosecution

of your Tour.⁹⁴

[H.S.P.]

To PHILIP SCHUYLER

Head Quarters, Newburgh, July 15, 1783.

Dr. Sir: I have always entertained a great desire to see the northern part of this State before I returned to the Southward. The present irksome interval, while we are waiting for the definitive Treaty affords an opportunity of gratifying this inclination. I have therefore concerted with Governor Clinton to make a Tour to reconnoitre these places, where the most remarkable Posts were established, and the ground which became famous by being the Theatre of Action in 1777. On our return from thence, we propose to pass a cross to the Mowhawk River, in order to have a view of that tract of Country which is so much celebrated for the fertility of its Soil and the beauty of its Situation; we shall set out by water on friday the 18th. if nothing should intervene to prevent our Journey.

Mr. Dimler Asst. Qr. Mr. Genl who will have the honor of delivering this Letter, precedes us to make arrangements, and particularly to have some light Boats provided and transported to Lake George that we may not be delayed on our arrival there.

94. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

On July 17 Washington ordered Lieutenant Colonel Villefranche to attend Baron Steuben on his tour. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

I pray you, my Dear Sir, to be so good as to advise Mr Dimler in what manner to proceed in this business, to excuse the trouble I am about to give you, and to be persuaded that your kind information and direction to the bearer, will greatly encrease the obligations, with which I have the honor etc.⁹⁸

To THE OFFICER COMMANDING THE TROOPS AT SARATOGA

Head Quarters, July 15, 1783.

Sir: I have it in contemplation to make a Journey as far to the Northward as Crown point, and consequently shall want some light *Boats* provided in Lake George. Mr Dimlet A. Qr Mr Gen has my Instructions to have them in readiness; I must request you will give him any assistance in your power, and that you will furnish such number of Men as may be necessary to facilitate the business.⁹⁹ The remainder of the two Companies are to be held prepared to march at a moments notice, as I may probably have occasion for them. I am &c.¹

98. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

99. The troops at Saratoga consisted of two companies of the Rhode Island Regiment.

1. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

INSTRUCTIONS TO LIEUTENANT HENRY DIMLER

Head Quarters, July 15, 1783.

Sir: You are to take under your charge the Servants and Horses belonging to myself and Suite which will be committed to you, and proceed directly with them to Albany. You will there make provision for the Servants and Horses until my Arrival, and without loss of time wait upon General Schuyler for his advise and information, as to the best mode of effecting your principal business, which is to procure and transport three light Boats to Lake George. The Commanding Officer at Saratoga will lend you any Assistance in his power, and I rely upon your assiduity and exertion that the Boats will be in readiness so that we may not be delayed one moment at the Lake for want of the means of conveyance.¹

1. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To MAJOR GENERAL LOUIS LE BEQUE DU PORTAIL

Head Quarters, July 18, 1783.

Sir: His Excellency being just sitting off on a tour to Albany and the upper posts,⁸ when your Letter by Majr. L'Enfant arrived, he directs me to thank you for the Respects you are pleased

8. On July 18 Washington left Newburgh, crossed the Hudson at Kinder Hook and traveled up the east bank of the river to Cohoes. The detailed account of the expenses of this tour, which is a copy in the writing of Martha Washington, does not give the dates on which he was at the different places mentioned. He stopped at the widow Javer's, the tavern at Fort Edward, and at Fort George; at Crown Point; Putnam's Point on Lake Champlain; Ball's town; a tavern 5 miles from Schenectady; a tavern at old Fort Johnson (or Johnston, Aikin, Montgomery County, New York); a tavern at, or near, Fort Rensselaer (Canajoharie); German Flats. There is also an item of the payment to Maj. Henry Glen (of Schenectady) of £38:2:0. In the *Washington Papers*, at the end of the year 1783, is filed a memorandum of account "of Cash laid out to the Westward for his Excellency Genl. Washington's family" in which Robert Lewis at Schenectady was paid £4.8.0. for stores and Alexander Mercer, the same, £2.7.0. Foxes bill at Fort Herkimer was £3.6.3. Doctor Petrie was paid 6s. for a horse; Lieutenant Thornton £1.18.0 for 2 sheep and some butter. Mr. Warmmout's bill, including horse hire, was £15. Mr. Meebies, 16s. 9d. Adam Leip was paid £1.13.9 for horsekeeping and John 13. Van Eps, for ferryage, £1.4.0.

Baker's *Itinerary of Washington* states that Washington's return from Fort Schuyler was via Wood Creek, Otsego Lake, and the Mohawk River to Albany, which he reached August 4. He arrived at Newburgh the afternoon of August 5.

to express for him, and for your tenders of Service. At the same time to inform you, that the Object of the Barons⁹ Commission is not of such nature, as in his Opinion, required the Assistance of an Engineer; but that it was at the Barons particular request, that he had consented one should attend him. At any rate, His Excellency, from what had passed in your former letters, had thort that you intended to remain in America but a little longer, and therefore did not conceive that you would undertake any Business which would require a length of Time; even if the Object in Canada had been of that importance, as to have needed the Assistance of an Engineer of your rank and Abilities. Most respectfully I am etc.¹⁰

To WILLIAM DUER AND DANIEL PARKER

Saratoga, July 26, 1783.

Gentlemen: I find it indispensably necessary to the public service, that a Magazine of Provisions should be laid up immediately at the Post of Fort Herkemer, I am therefore to desire you will without

delay cause a sufficient number of rations to supply 500 Men for 10 Months to be deposited there, the Meat should be either salted Beef or Pork or both and that of the best quality and well

9. Baron Steuben.

10. The draft is in the writing of and is signed: "[Jonathan] T[rumbull] Jr."

On July 23 Trumbull wrote to the Secretary at War that the Delaware officers had accepted the commutation of pay proposed by the resolve of Congress of March 23. Trumbull's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

preserved; whatever expence may be incurred which is not required by or in conformity to the Contract in laying up this supply must be allowed by the public; and as the exact performance of this requisition will be of great importance you will be pleased to pay the earliest attention to the subject, and inform me with your doings thereon. I am etc.¹²

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Saratoga, July 26, 1783.

Sir: A Number of Batteaux will be wanting to transport the necessary provisions and Stores to the Garrisons which may be kept on the Western Waters I must therefore desire that you will retain all such as are suitable for that purpose and have them put into repair. I am &c.

P. S. They need be put in no other repair than what is necessary to transport them to Schenectady; they must be overhauled afterwards.¹¹

12. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

11. In the writing of Benjamin Walker; the P.S. is in that of David Humphreys. From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

To BARON STEUBEN

Fort Renssalaer, August 3, 1783.

Dear Baron: Mr. Cassady²² (who will have the honour of delivering this Letter to you) being a Gentleman of respectable Character, and having been long resident at Detroit, is dispatched by me to that place, in order to find out the dispositions of the Inhabitants and to make any inquiries which may be useful to you on your arrival. I am the rather induced to adopt this measure for fear you should be delayed a considerable time on your Journey and from an apprehension that considering the advanced season of the year, the uncertainty when the Definitive treaty will arrive and our difficulties of a pecuniary nature, we shall not be able to send any Garrison to Detroit for this Winter. It will in that case be important to make the best arrangements in our power for the preservation of the Post, when it shall be evacuated by the British; and I know no possible means of doing this, but by engaging the Inhabitants, to yield their Assistance for the purpose, Mr. Cassady can bring you acquainted with their Characters and many other matters which may be necessary to be known by you. Relying on your discretion and wishing you success in all your Negotiations, I remain etc.²³

22. James Cassady (Cassady).

23. From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARINUS WILLETT

Albany, August 4, 1783.

Sir: As I consider it highly expedient to make every preparatory arrangement in our power for occupying the Posts which will be ceded to us upon the Western Waters, so soon as they shall be evacuated by the British, I must request your attention that the following Measures may be carried into execution, as fully as your means will admit, and with as little delay as possible.

In the first place, you will be pleased to employ a sufficient number of Men in opening the Road and repairing the Bridges from Fort Herkimer to Fort Schuyler, so that it may be practicable for Waggon and sleighs; you will also endeavour to remove such obstacles and make such improvements, in the difficult parts of the Water Communication, as you may be able to accomplish, in order that Boats may pass with less impediment, than at present, into the Oneida Lake. In the mean time you should attempt to establish a place of deposit for Provisions Stores &c under protection of one or two small Block Houses, at the Portage between the Mohawk River and the Wood Creek, in such a position and in such manner as you may judge best calculated to effect the object I have in view, and which I have already more fully explained to you. For the speedy completion of these Works, and whatever other

arrangements may occur to you, as being necessary for the foregoing purposes, I shall confide in your

discretion and Zeal for the service: Inducements for exertion need not be added, when we consider the advanced season, the great distance and unavoidable difficulties of transportation, the uncertainty of the time when the Definitive Treaty will arrive, and the necessity there will be of taking possession of these Posts, immediately after that event shall take place.

Such quantities of Tents, Tools, and other Articles as may be wanting, the Qur Masr. General will furnish, upon your giving a Memorandum to Mr. Dimler At. Qr. Mr. Genl. who is now in this City.²⁵

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 6, 1783.

Sir: I wrote to you from Saratoga on the 26th Ultio to have all the Boats fit to be used on the western Waters, repaired for that service; but since my return from the Northward I am informed the number will be very inferior to my expectation [especially as I directed early in the year to have them got in repair and recollect no counter order since] that time. I have therefore to request that 125 Batteaux (including those now fit for service in the public possession) may be provided by Contract or in some other effectual way at the

25. From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

earliest possible period. Some Money will also be absolutely necessary for defraying the expence of transportation and for other contingent purposes in your Department [particularly for] Boards, Materials to [build a Magazine at the carrying place between the Mohawk Rivr. and Wood Creek].

I think it expedient to advise you that in establishing the Garrisons for the western Posts, and indeed in making the previous Arrangements, the service will be considered of so great importance, as to require your presence or that of some very able and active Asst. as far as the Wood Creek in order to superintend the business of the Department, to furnish the Means of transportation at the Carrying Places, and to expedite the movements with the greatest Energy and dispatch.

As I presume the business on which you went to Philadelphia must be compleated before this time, I expect your return with great impatience, and that you will come prepared for the instant execution of the services before mentioned, which are of the greatest consequence, and demand your earliest

attention. It is probable a Contract for the Boats may be made on the Credit of this State, and that the Money may be eventually advanced by it, for that and perhaps for other purposes which may be deemed indispensable for the promotion of measures so popular and interesting to the State as those in contemplation. I am etc.²⁶

26. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, August 10, 1783.

Sir: A Detachment of about 500 Men is to be sent to Garrison the Western Posts, a supply of Camp Equipage, also a considerable quantity of good Axes and Hatchets, with a few sets of Blacksmiths and Carpenters Tools will be wanted for the Troops which may be employed in this service. I must request you will immediately have these things provided or repaired in the best manner, together with whatever other stores and Apparatus may be required from the Qur. Masters Department, to accommodate this Corps for ten Months from the present period. I am etc.

P.S. A few Intrenching Tools will also be necessary.⁴⁷

To DOCTOR JOHN COCHRAN

Head Quarters, August 10, 1783.

Sir: A supply of Medicines and Hospital Stores will be wanted to serve a Corps of 500 Men for Ten Months. It is my desire you will have as accurate an Estimate formed, as the nature of the case will admit, and that you will have the most efficacious measures immediately adopted for providing, arranging and

47. From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

packing up, in the best possible Order, all Articles included in it.

As the preservation of the health of the Troops and perhaps the very existence of the Posts, which may be established on the Western Waters, will depend very much on this arrangement, I shall rely

on your Activity and precision in having the business executed in the most effectual and satisfactory manner. I am etc.⁴⁷

To DAVID BROOKS

Head Quarters, August 10, 1783.

Sir: It will be essential to the Public service, to furnish a Corps of 500 Men with the following Articles of Clothing Vizt for each Non Commissioned Officer and Private: One Blanket Great Coat, or good Watch Coat. One Waist Coat with Sleeves (or Uniform Coat.) One Vest. One pt. Woolen Overalls. One pt. Breeches. two pr. Stockings. One pr. Socks. One Woolen Cap. One pr. Mits. two Shirts. two pr. Shoes, with two pr. Soles and Heels or three pr. Shoes.

47. From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

As these things will all be wanted in less than a Month from this time, you will please to inform me which of the Articles you have it now in your power to furnish; and you will make application for the remainder without a moments loss of time; informing the Head of your Department, that unless the full supply can be obtained in the time before specified, the measures which have been concerted for Garrisoning the Posts on the Western Waters may be entirely frustrated; as it will be impossible to send any Stores to them after the Troops shall have moved for their destination. By representations I have had, I should suppose all the deficient Articles, might be purchased very cheap, and at a long Credit in New York. I am etc.⁴²

To DOCTOR JOHN COCHRAN

Head Quarters, August 11, 1783.

Dear Sir: It was not 'till Yesterday that I received your favor of the 25th of June. I now acknowledge the receipt of it, and thank you very sincerely for the kind Expressions of Benevolence and regard which you are pleased to extend to me; And to assure you, that I shall retain a cheerfull remembrance of past Services, and wish you every felicity in your future Life.

I take pleasure in sending you

42. From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

the Certificate requested. And am with much Regard etc.⁴⁸

CERTIFICATE TO DOCTOR JOHN COCHRAN

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 11, 1783.

This certifies that Doctor John Cochran, during the present War, has been in the Service of the United States, acting in different medical Capacities, untill the 17th of January 1781, when he was appointed Director of the Military Hospitals. That during the most of the Time, he has been under my immediate Inspection and Command; and in the various Stations in which he has acted, has discharged their several duties, with that Attention, Skill and Fidelity, as have gained my Approbation.⁴⁹

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, August 12, 1783.

Sir: The Commander in Chief wishes it may be ascertained this day, how many Boats are or may be actually fit for service on the Western Waters; for if there are ten or more that can be

48. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

49. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. From a photograph of the original kindly furnished by the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.

got in readiness in a few days. His Excellency proposes that they should be carried to the Mohawk River as soon as possible, because some Boats will be wanted there sooner than any can be completed, which may be Contracted for hereafter. An Answer is requested as early as may be. I am etc.⁵⁰

To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, August 13, 1783.

Dr. Sir: Your Letter of the 23d July was handed to me on my Return from the Northward.

The advanced Season of the Year makes it absolutely necessary that the Troops and every thing destined for the Posts on our Western Frontiers, should be put in a situation to move, the moment we can learn when the British will evacuate them, I must therefore desire you to order back four or five hundred Men of your Command to replace such as may be sent to the Westward. You may send a whole Corps or detachment as may be most convenient; though I think the former preferable. No time should be lost in putting them on the March and you will direct them to take the lower Road, by Elizabeth Town &c that they may be ready to turn off to the Lines or otherwise as they may receive my Orders. I am &c.⁵⁴

50. From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

54. From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, August 16, 1783.

Sir: Your Ideas of the Ordnance that would be proper for the Garrisons of Niagara and Oswego accord very fully with my own; but, on the arrival of the definitive Treaty, the season will be so far advanced, and we shall then have so many difficulties to encounter before we can establish ourselves at those Posts; that I think we must be contented for the winter with two Howitzers at each, and such a number of *Light Peices* as may be judged necessary for the defence of the Works in case of any hostile, attempts from the Savages: for it is hardly to be imagined the British, who alone could furnish

Artillery for a Siege in that quarter, will immediately make an effort to recover by force of Arms, what they will just have relinquished by Agreement; and I hope before any thing serious could be meditated against those Fortifications, Measures will be taken (at the opening of the next season) to furnish them with an ample supply for every Contingency.

So far as the Artillery now on the Mowhawk River can be made subservient to the present purposes, it will be better to make use of those Peices, than to incur the trouble and expence of transportation from a greater distance; I beg you therefore to make the Arrangement as soon as

may be, in such manner as you shall judge most conducive to the public service, upon the principles beforementioned.

I have already paid attention to the Cloathing requisite for the Detachment destined for the northern duty, most of the Articles which will be wanted are in Store. I am etc.⁶⁰

[MS.H.S.]

To PHILIP SCHUYLER

Head Quarters, August 17, 1783.

Dr. Sir: Captain Vincent with three of the St. Francois Tribe of Indians, have been here some days and now tell me they are going to Albany. Captain Vincent says he has had a Company in service

60. In the writing of David Humphreys.

during the War and Claims the ballance of Pay due them; but as he has brought no Voucher to Shew how many Men he has had or how long they have been employed, no settlement can be made with them and of this I have acquainted General Bayley under whose direction they say they have been. As they intend applying to you, I thought it necessary to give you this state of their case and to inform you that I have furnished them with, each one, a Blanket, Shirt, Shoes and some Cloth to relieve their present necessities. I am etc.⁶³

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 17, 1783.

Dear Sir: To make preparation for garrisoning the Posts which will be ceded to us by the British on the Western Waters, is now the greatest object that can claim our attention. On this subject I wrote to you yesterday, and desired you to make the necessary Arrangements in the Ordnance Department. I have now to repeat the request, that as soon the Boats proper for service on the Lakes can be repaired, you will forward without a moments loss of time, the Artillery, Stores, and spare Ammunition sufficient to compleat a full supply including such of those Articles at present on the Mowhawk River, as may be appropriated to this use. In addition to the Artillerists who will be

63. From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

Practically this same letter was written to Brig. Gen. Jacob Bayley, also stating that "Whatever pay they are entitled to by the Resolve, will undoubtedly be given them; but before the Pay Master General can settle their Accounts, they must produce some Voucher to shew how many of them have been employed and for what time." This letter is in the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

detached for these Garrisons, (and who will take the immediate charge of the Ordnance &c) you will be pleased to order one Company of the Light Infantry from Lt. Col. Hulls Command to proceed with the Boats to the Northward. The whole of the Detachments to report themselves to Colonel Willet, and receive his Instructions.

Either the Quarter Master Genl or one of his Assts. will go immediately to the Mowhawk River to provide more Boats, make provision for transportation, and supply the Contingencies in that Department which may be necessary. I am &c.⁶⁴

[MS.H.S.]

64. In the writing of David Humphreys.

To COLONEL HEMAN SWIFT

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 17, 1783.

Sir: I had the honour, last Evening, to receive your favour of the same date and have Communicated the sentiments contained therein to the Commander in Chief. In consequence of which His Excellency, desires me to acquaint you, for the information of the Officers of the Connecticut Regiment, that although he proposes setting out for Princeton to morrow upon the request of Congress, without knowing for what particular purpose, or for how long a time they may require his presence at that place; yet he expects the pleasure of seeing his Friends again in this Quarter, before he retires to private life, and for that reason alone waved all Ceremony in taking leave of the Army at this time.

His Excellency the General farther directs me to signify to you, the extreme sensibility with which he is affected by the friendly sentiments expressed for him by the Officers of the Connecticut Regiment and he intreats they may be assured, that he experiences, with the

most perfect reciprocity, the sincerest feelings of affection regard and Esteem for them. I have the honour etc.⁶⁵

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARINUS WILLETT

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 17, 1783.

Dear Sir: This will be delivered to you by Mr. Mix Asst. Q. M. Genl. who in the absence of the Quartr. M. Genl. is charged with making provision for the Transportation of the Garrisons and Stores to the Posts on the Western Waters, he has instructions to consult with you respecting a Contract for so many Batteaux as he can ensure the means of payment; he will also make arrangements for the transportation across the Carrying places, and for supplying such Articles as are of the greatest necessity and may be required in the first instance from the Quartr. M. Genls. Department.

Majr. General Knox will in a few days forward the Ordnance and [Military Stores to the Northward, with a Detachment of Artillery Men and a Company of Infantry, (which are all the Men that can be spared until some Troops, which are sent for, shall arrive from Philadelphia) they will bring with them 12 or 15

65. From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress as signed by David Humphreys.

Boats, which should be got into the Mohawk River without delay, that in case the Posts of Oswego and Niagara should be suddenly evacuated, a Detachment should be instantly pushed forward to take possession of them, before the New Boats could be got in readiness; until that event should take place, or until you shall hear from the Baron Steuben these Boats may be employed in transporting the necessary apparatus (Provisions in Particular) to Fort Schuyler. The before mentioned Detachments will report themselves to you and receive your Orders.

I expect the Contractors will,] in a short time, send the full supply of provision which has been required of them, to Schenectady, but I find it will be expensive and difficult, if not impracticable, for them to forward it from thence without Water conveyance, and our assistance, pray attend to

this as a matter of the first importance, and in general to every thing that will tend to expedite the movement, as soon as the British will put us in possession of their Fortifications.

Impressed as you are with the necessity of accelerating these Arrangements I need add nothing more than that I am etc.⁶⁶

66. In the writing of David Cobb. From a photostat of the incomplete original kindly furnished by Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J. The portion in brackets is supplied from the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 17, 1783.

Sir: I have been greatly disappointed in not seeing you before my departure from this place. In consequence of your absence, I have been obliged to send one of your Assistants to the Northward to make Provision for Garrisoning the Western Posts, as that business could be delayed no longer. I need not say how much more satisfactory it would have been, that the execution of this important business should have gone thro' the head of the Department in the first Instance.

On your Arrival, I must desire you will instantly attend to all the Arrangements which may come within the Sphere of your Department, and that you will either go to the Northward yourself, or give more particular instructions and press the completion of the preparations with the greatest earnestness, as well knowing the Posts in question will be very much injured, if not totally demolished, unless we are ready to occupy them at the earliest possible period after they shall be evacuated by the British. I omitted, in my former Letters, to enumerate specifically all the smaller Articles that may be wanted. Such as Garrison Flags for three Posts, Orderly and Company Books, Stationary and many other things will undoubtedly occur to you, and should be provided accordingly. I am &c.⁶⁷

67. From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

INSTRUCTIONS TO JOHN MIX

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 17 1783.

Sir: You are hereby directed to repair immediately to the Northward, in order to make Arrangements for transporting the Garrisons and Stores to the Western Posts. You will on your way, wait upon His Excellency Governor Clinton and receive such Sum of Money as he shall direct to be paid in consequence of the Letter I shall write to him by you; which is to be appropriated in the best and most œconomical manner to the before mentioned service.

Your principal object is to procure by Contract or in any other Manner, at the most reasonable rate, to the amount of 100 well built Batteaux, completely fitted for use, if in the first instance you can engage payment only for 30 or 40 let so many be instantly begun, and in negotiating this business you will be pleased to consult with Colo. Willet, who will give you his advice and Assistance on all occasions. Remember it is necessary all the Boats should be in readiness, if possible, in six, seven or Eight Weeks at farthest from the date hereof; And as the service is important you will use your greatest exertions for the accomplishment of it.

You will in the next place make Provision for the Transportation of the Boats, with every thing that will be required for the Garrisons across the Carrying places, until they shall be put into the Wood Creek; And in General you will supply,

in the best manner you are able, all such Articles as may be wanted from the Quarter Master's Department, Superintending the business yourself, and taking the advice of Colo. Willet on all important matters relative to the operation, until you shall hear further from the Quarter Master General or Myself.⁶⁸

To MAJOR BÉCHET DE ROCHEFONTAINE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 19, 1783.

Whereas Monsr Rochefontaine hath served as Capt in the Corps of Engineers from the Month of April 1778 until the Month of Novr. 1781 when he was promoted to the rank of Major in the Service of the United States: and whereas he hath been principally with the Army under my immediate Orders, thro' the various stages of the War until the happy conclusion of it, having merited my approbation, and having received honorable testimonials from the head of the Department in which he acted. I do therefore hereby Certify and make known that the said Majr. Rochefontaine hath given many proofs of his intelligence, zeal and abilities, particularly in the successful Siege of York in Virginia, and that he hath on all occasions supported the reputation of a

68. From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

Gentleman and a Valuable Officer.⁷²

To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Rocky Hill, August 24, 1783.

Dr. Sir: Your several Letters of the 19 20 and 21 of this Month are come to hand.

My papers being yet behind, prevents a reference to my last Letter to you from Newburg but if I recollect it is explicit as to the number of Troops and the necessity of their immediate march; the purpose for which they were ordered on will not

72. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

admit delay, and I must desire that not only Sprouts Regiment but as many more as will make up the number required be sent on with all possible dispatch. As Jacksons is peculiarly circumstanced they would certainly be the most proper to complete the number.

Since my arrival here I have learnt that Congress have expressed to you their Wishes that the whole of the Troops with you should be returned to the No. River as soon as they can possibly be spared; this period I have no doubt you will hasten as much as lays in your power.⁷⁵

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARINUS WILLETT

Rocky Hill near Princeton, August 29, 1783.

Dr. Sir: I have been duly favoured with your Letter of the 15th covering the extract of a Letter from Lt. Colo. Depeyster and the Copy of a Letter from Brigr. Genl McLean. I have also just heard of the return of the Baron Steuben, without having been able to accomplish the business of his Mission. In consequence of which and of the advanced season of the Year, I have judged it impossible to take possession of the Western Posts this fall and have directed the movement of the Troops and Stores to be suspended accordingly. Nothing now remains to be done but the prosecution of the Works, of clearing the land and Water Communications,

75. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

of making Sluices (if you have time) in the Wood Creek and of erecting the Buildings at Fort Schuyler, which were formerly agreed upon, and which I wish you would still take the trouble of having completed. I am etc.⁹¹

CERTIFICATE TO MAJOR GEORGE SHAFNER

Princeton in New Jersey, August 27, 1783.

Whereas George Shafner Esqr. Major in the American Legion Commanded by Brigr. Genl Armand Marquis de la Rouerie, hath served in the Army of the United States from a very early period of the War with Great Britain, in the several grades of Lieutenant, Captain, and Major; and whereas he hath conducted himself thro' the whole course of his service until the successful termination of the War in a manner which reflected great credit upon him as a Gentleman and an Officer, as appears not only from the general tenor of his behavior, but also from the honorable testimonials he hath received from those Officers under whose immediate Orders he hath been placed; I have therefore thought proper to grant this Certificate of service, and I do hereby Certify and make known, to all to whom these presents shall come; that the said Major Shafner hath on every occasion behaved himself as a zealous, intelligent

91. From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

and gallant Officer; and that in my opinion he is entitled to that favorable Notice and consideration which result from a series of brave and successful services.⁸³

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Rocky Hill, August 29, 1783.

Dear Sir: Upon considering the state of facts reported in your Letter of the 26th., I think it expedient that a stop should be put to the movement of the Troops and Stores which were destined for the Western Posts; you will be pleased to give directions accordingly, and to transmit the Letter herewith to the Quartr Mastr Genl. as it relates to the same subject. I am etc.

The Letter to Colo. Willet, you will be kind eno' to forward with the Q. M. Generals.⁸⁷

[MS. H. S.]

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Rocky Hill near Princeton, August 29, 1783.

Sir: In consequence of intelligence just received

83. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

87. In the writing of David Cobb.

from the Northward that General Haldimand would not enter into any negotiations with the Baron Steuben for delivering up the Western Posts, I find it proper to put a stop to all the operations which are carrying on for the purpose of Transporting Garrisons and Stores to them this fall. You will be pleased therefore to give directions for suspending all preparations, and for preventing, as much as possible, the expences which would have been incurred in your Department, desisting from making any farther Contracts for Boats, and relinquishing those already entered into, if practicable. No other supplies will now be required from you, except such materials as may be necessary for erecting the Store House and small Buildings at Fort Schuyler, respecting which Colo. Willet has my Instructions, and which it is my wish may yet be effected. I am etc.

P.S. Since writing the foregoing, I have received your favour of the 26th by Colo. Villefranche and am happy to find you have in a great measure anticipated my wishes.⁹²

To DANIEL PARKER AND WILLIAM DUER

Rocky Hill near Princeton, August 29, 1783.

Gentlemen: Some circumstances having intervened that render it impracticable during this fall, for us to take possession of the

92. From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

Posts now occupied by the British on the Western Waters; for the Garrison of which, the *Provisions* mentioned in my Letter to you from Saratoga were designed, and which will therefore become in a manner useless to the public, if they cannot be relinquished or disposed of. My design in addressing you, Gentlemen, at this time is to give information of the before mentioned unexpected Event, and to desire that all purchases for this purpose may be suspended, and that in case any Articles have been procured, the Bargains may be given up if possible, or the Provisions otherwise disposed of, if it can be done without considerable loss to the United States. To prevent which, such articles as cannot be returned or rended, had better be stored at the Garrison of West Point. I am etc.⁹³

***To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE**

Rocky hill, August 31, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have been favored with your private letter of the 21st, and should have given it an acknowledgment sooner but thought a few days would have let me more into the views of Congress with respect to the Peace Establishment than I had any knowledge of at the time of its receipt. I am as much in the dark now as ever, and as unable to guess at the number of Troops which may be

93. From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

retained, or raised for this Service. I am inclined to think however the force (if any) will scarcely amount to a Major Generals Command. If it shd., as the appointment of Officers will be with Congress or the Secretary at War (and not with me even if I should be here) I will give in your name and wishes with others who have written or spoken to me on the same Subject, wishing very sincerely it was in my power to oblige all; and to put them in way to receive compensation for the losses they have sustained in Service, by adhering to the Interest of their Country. With great esteem and regard etc.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHEN SMITH

Rocky Hill, August 31, 1783.

Dr. Sir: I have received your favour of the 26th and am much obliged by your attention in procuring the Articles I had requested I am also glad to find there is at length a prospect that the British will in reality soon take their departure from the United States.

Whatever my private sentiments, as an Individual, may be, respecting the violent Policy which seems in some instances to be adopted, It is not for us, as Military Characters, to dictate a different Line of Conduct; but I should suppose the encouragement

you have given to those British and Foreign Soldiers, who have been discharged, that they would be permitted to remain in the Country, was very unexceptionable and proper; the same indulgence, however, cannot be extended to such natives of the Country as have served in their New Corps, without the particular interference of the States to which they belong. And I think it necessary you should be advised, that granting Passports to Citizens of any description for the purpose of giving protection in coming from New York into the Country, may not only be considered as an assumption beyond the Limits of any Commission which has been derived from Congress, but will probably be productive of altercations with the Civil Powers, and at the same time involve us in very disagreeable consequences in many other respects.⁹⁷ I am etc.⁹⁸

97. Smith had written (August 26) "that in Consequence of numberless warm publications in our papers and the unconstitutional proceedings of Committees I suppose not less than fifteen thousand inhabitants will be drove from the Country who are not conscious of any other Crime than that of residing within the British Lines, some perhaps have acted tho' in general with reluctance... in consequence of which upon the evacuation we shall find a City destitute of Inhabitants, and a settlement made on our Frontiers by a people who their minds being sour'd by the severity of their Treatment, will prove troublesome neighbours and perhaps lay the foundation of future Contests which I suppose would be for the Interest of our Country to avoid." Smith's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

98. From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

To JOHN MOYLAN

Rocky Hill, August 31, 1783.

Sir: I have received your Letter of the 18th, also the duplicate inclosed in yours of the 24th.

If the Articles should not have been forwarded you will be informed by the Superintendant of Finance, that the immediate necessity of incurring the expence of transportation has ceased to exist, I am however pleased with your exertions on this, as well as former occasions. The reasons you have given for your detention in Phila., have always appeared satisfactory, and I have the pleasure to

assure you, the business of your department with the Army has been conducted by your Assistant Mr. Brooks entirely to my satisfaction. I am etc.⁹⁸

98. From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Rocky Hill, September 3, 1783.

Sir: To the several points mentioned in your Letters of 28th and 29th Ultimo I answer; that I am at present totally ignorant of the strength of the Garrison which will be destined for West Point the ensuing Winter, not having as yet had any conference with the Committee of Congress on that subject; I should think however that a supply of Forage and Fuel for a Corps of 500 Men will be sufficient, and for that number I wish you to make your Arrangements, unless you shall receive further Instructions.

As to the Officers who retired, pursuant to the Resolution of Congress, it is my opinion they must be ultimately entitled to Pay, Forage, and Subsistence for the whole time they shall be on furlough; but for the present I supposed the public disbursements were to be confined to the actual provision necessary for those Officers only who remained with the Troops which were returned in service, or who availed themselves of the general Order on the Subject. This measure was believed to be indispensable for enabling the Financier to comply with the engagements he had already entered into.

The public buildings at Mrs. Hasbrooks will not be wanted, and may therefore be disposed of; [the Ho. in the Garden may be given to her.]

If it is well ascertained that the chain⁴ can be preserved in perfect Order for future use, I should advise it to be housed in the manner you mention; but if the fact is otherwise or even very doubtful [of wch. I wish Genl Knox to be consulted] I would recommend that it should be sold without delay. I am etc.⁵

***To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE**

Rocky Hill, September 10, 1783.

Dear Sir: As there is but one Regiment at Philadelphia to march to West Point, and the Troops when they get there take their Orders from the Commanding Officer of the Garrison (agreeably to the Original disposition of them) till Congress shall have determined upon a Peace Establishment; there can be no necessity for your marching with your present command, in its reduced state to that place. I mention the matter to you therefore at this time, that you may be at perfect liberty to move with it, or not, as you may find it most convenient and agreeable to your own Inclination.

A Committee of Congress have, for

4. A few links of this chain have survived, and are to be seen at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

5. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys, The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

some days past, had the Peace Establishment under consideration, but I do not know whether they have come to any resolutions thereupon, or not. I am etc.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM IRVINE

Rocky Hill, September 16, 1783.

Sir: Your Letter of the 6th. by Lieut. Rose

has been duly received.

As the Secrety at War had undertaken to furlough all that part of the Army which lay South of the Delaware, I was much surprised, on the receipt of your Letter, to find that business so irregularly conducted at Fort Pitt; but on enquiry at the War Office, the difficulty seems evidently to have originated from circumstances that could not have been foreseen, the particulars of which you will be fully informed of, by Majr. Jackson, the Assist. Secrety. at War, and which, I hope will be perfectly satisfactory to you. I am etc.²⁵

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Rocky Hill, September 17, 1783.

Dear Sir: Your two Letters of the 3d and 10th. inst., with the enclosed Returns, have been duly received.

To prevent the trouble in future of transmitting the particular Returns of each Corps, let the Fort Major or Adjutant, digest them into one General Return, as I only wish to have a view of the general strength and state of the Troops.

[As Congress have reassumed the consideration of a Peace Establishment, it is probable that something on that subject

25. The draft is in the writing of David Cobb.

will be determined in the course of a few weeks, when the final arrangement of the Troops on the North River will take place; 'till then, it will be unnecessary to make any distributions of Cloathing, except what is absolutely necessary.]

Ater the evacuation of New York, it is my present determination to make a visit to West Point, (with the whole or part of Congress, if they can be persuaded,) to partake of the festivity on the celebration of Peace, if the Season should be far advanced before this event takes place, the joyfulness of the occasion must palliate for the uncomfortable state of the Bowers.

I think it necessary that the Artillery Officer and Men, you mention, should be sent immediately to the Posts on the Mohawk River, and it would be best to detach them from the New York Regt. With compliments to Mrs. Knox, I am etc.²⁶

26. The draft is in the writing of David Cobb, in which opposite the paragraph in brackets, Washington has written in the margin "Copy of this Paragraph sent to Congress Sep. 19th." (See Washington's letter to the President of Congress, Sept. 19, 1783.)

On September 17 Cobb wrote to Pickering that Humphreys was sick with a fever, and the General directs Cobb to inform Pickering that Captain Bushnell is entitled to forage for a horse since the period of Captain Gilleland's resignation, "not however on the principle of his belonging to the Corps of Engineers, who are allowed horses, as the establishment of the Corps of Sappers and Miners was expressly without that preveledge; but from his having performed since Octr. 1782 the duties of those Staff Officers, who in the general establishment of the Army, are allowed forage; this allowance

is made by the General on this express condition, that no other Officer of that Corps shall be entitled to the same preveledge." The draft of Cobb's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL VILLEFRANCHE

Princeton, September 22, 1783.

This may Certify that Lt Colo Villefranche entered the Service of the United States in 1776, as Captain of the Corps of Engineers, in 1777 was promoted to a Majority, and in May 1783 to a Lieut. Colo. in that Corps.

From the testimony of Majr. Generals Heath, Howe, McDougall and Knox, under whose Orders Lt. Colo. Villefranche has served, it appears that in the various services in which he has been constantly employed, he has shewn such zeal, activity, and knowledge of his profession, as to entitle him to their highest approbation.

During great part of the above mentioned time, Lieut. Colo. Villefranche has served in the Army under my immediate Command, and it affords me great pleasure to give this testimony of my entire satisfaction at every part of his conduct that has fallen under my notice, which has been such as justly entitles him to the Character of a brave and deserving Officer.³⁶

36. The draft is in the writing of David Cobb.

On September 22 Washington wrote to Lieut. Col. Samuel Safford, acknowledging receipt of his acceptance of the commutation in lieu of half-pay and referring him to the Paymaster General for the adjustment of his accounts. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

***To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE OR OFFICER COMMANDING AT PHILADELPHIA**

Rocky Hill, September 23, 1783.

Dear Sir: Congress by a resolve of this date, have directed me to dispose of the Regiment which remains at Philadelphia in any manner I shall see fit.

As the business which required the Presence of Troops at Philadelphia, is accomplished and the proceedings approved and acted upon by Congress, I am to desire that all the Troops at that place

who are able to march, may commence it immediately for West point. and that such as are not able to march, may be left under proper Officers with orders to follow as soon as they are. I am etc.

***To MAJOR GENERAL LOUIS LE BÉQUE DU PORTAIL**

Rocky Hill, September 23, 1783.

Dear Sir: I was this day in conference with a Commee. of Congress upon the Subject of your letter to me of the 16th. Instt; they discovered every disposition to relieve the Gentn. of your departmt. from the state of uncertainty in wch. they

are at prest., but wished previous to their making a report to Congress to obtain your Sentiments more in detail upon a proper Peace establishment for the Engineering Line of the Army, agreeably to the Idea contained in your general observations which are now before Congress. I know you will require more information than they, or I, can give you in the undecided state in which things now are before you can deliver a precise opinion but all the data I can give you to work upon, is, that we ought to maintain West Point as a Post; those which the British are to surrender to us; and such as it may be found necessary to establish West and So. West of them upon our interior boundary and at these too upon the most œconomical plan.

The sooner you can favor the Comtee. (or me in their behalf) with your sentiments on this subject, the sooner the matter will be brought to a decision. In the mean time, if you have it in your power, you would oblige me by giving me information of the names of the Gentn. in yr. departmt. who are disposed to remain in this Country upon a Peace establishment. I am etc.

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Rocky Hill, September 25, 1783.

Dr. Sir: I have had the pleasure to receive

your Letter of the 17 Instant.

Your Arrangements, in discharging the Invalids and contracting your deposits of Stores, meet my fullest approbation; the former especially not only seconds my views but those of Congress, whose wish it is, to diminish our force to the number only that may be absolutely necessary; and this I think

may be estimated at 3000 Men. A formal resolution however to this effect, might not be so well, as to reduce the number insensibly by a more critical Inspection and discharge of all who have any infirmities, and of those whose times are near expiring and this method I would wish you to adopt with the least possible Stir 'till you shall have brought your numbers to three Thousand Men, as above mentioned. I am &c.⁴⁹

To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Rocky Hill, September 26, 1783.

Dear Sir: I feel great pleasure in communicating to you the inclosed resolves of Congress,⁵⁰ approving your conduct in the execution of the service on which you have been employed: as well as that of the Troops who were under your Orders.

As great part of these Troops have already

49. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

50. See the *Journals of the Continental Congress* of Sept. 13, 1783.

returned to West Point, I transmitted the resolves of Congress to Major General Knox, in a Letter of which the inclosed is Copy, in Order that so agreeable a testimony of their Conduct might be communicated to them as soon as possible. I am &c.

P.S. This moment I have received Your Letter of yesterday.⁴⁹

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Rocky Hill, September 26, 1783.

Dear Sir: I am happy in transmitting to you the inclosed Resolves of Congress, which I must desire you to publish to the Army: and to assure General Howe and the Detachment who were under his command, of the pleasure it gives me, to communicate to them this public testimony of the approbation of Congress.⁵¹ I am &c.⁴⁹

[MS.H.S.]

***To BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES ARMAND-TUFFIN**

Rocky Hill, October 1, 1783.

Sir: I have been honored with your favor

51. On September 26 Washington wrote to the President of Congress acknowledging the resolves commending General Howe and the troops under him. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

49. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

of Yesterday. As you think the Petition of the Officers (dated the 16th. of June for Lands within a certain district therein described Northwest of the Ohio) has a different tendency to that which you propose for your Legion; as your views, my ideas, and the Sentiments of Congress may all differ. and moreover as it would give me great pain to think that a previous declaration of my opinion restrained any application of yours which might ultimately have met the approbation of Congress, at a time when the Settlement of the Western Country is likely to become the subject of serious discussion My advice to you is, to offer your proposal without delay to the consideration of Congress; they will, I doubt not, be handed to the Committee to whom all these matters are referred; and consequently will have all the attention given to them that the nature of the case merits. this, in my opinion, will be the most regular, the best, and speediest mode for you to obtain such a decision as will be final although it should not be altogether satisfactory. I am &c.

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Rocky Hill, September 28, 1783.

Dear Sir: Supposing the necessary number of Troops to be kept up during the Winter it will be necessary to make some provision to supply their wants of Cloathing That this may not be delayed I am to request you to call for returns of such Articles as will [be]⁵² absolutely necessary and to forward me a general return thereof so soon as possible. I am etc.

P.S. Your's of the 24th. is received.⁵³

[MS.H.S.]

To MAJOR RICHARD PLATT

Rocky Hill, September 28, 1783.

Sir: Your Letter of the 21 of this Month with its inclosure reached me

52. Inadvertently omitted.

53. In the writing of Benjamin Walker. The P. S. is in the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress, and does not appear in the letter sent.

a few days since.

No application has been made to me on the subject of your Memorial to Congress, nor had I any knowledge of it until I received your Letter; and should I be referred to on the subject, I must candidly inform you I cannot give the measure the support you wish.

Except on very extraordinary occasions, where it has been the custom of all Nations to grant rewards of that nature, I have ever been opposed to partial promotions; every good Officer has an equal claim to my attention, nor could I ever lend my influence in favor of one individual to the prejudice of others. On this principle I have always acted, and have constantly refused every application of the kind which has been made to me. how Captains Sargent and North obtained their promotion, or that they have obtained it, I am wholly ignorant having never heard a word on the Subject, otherwise than from common report.

A general promotion of one grade by brevet to all Officers whose present commissions bear date prior to the 1 January 1777 has been recommended, and is now before Congress; if this takes place, as I am inclined to think it will, the object of these partial applications will be answered without hurting the feelings of any individual.⁵⁴

54. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To JOHN MOYLAN

Rocky Hill, October 5, 1783.

Sir: In consequence of directions I have received from Congress, I am to desire you to make the necessary provision of Cloathing for 2500 Men without delay.

I expect that Mr. Morris will receive the direction of Congress to retain as much of the public Cloathing now selling as will answer for part of the above provision. I am etc.⁶⁸

68. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Rocky Hill, October 8, 1783.

Sir: When I last wrote you on the subject of providing for the Garrison of West Point I mentioned 500 Men as the number which Congress would probably think proper to keep in that Garrison during the winter. I have been long waiting their determination on this subject but so far from coming to any such decision, [the members with whom I have conversed] seem unwilling to lessen the force now existing until the British shall finally evacuate the Country; this being the case, and the Season being now so far advanced, it would be imprudent to delay any necessary preparations, I have therefore to desire that the provision for the Winter may extend to the number of 2500 Or 3000 men, [or at least that it may be in train].⁷⁰

70. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Rocky Hill, October 8, 1783.

Dr. Sir: Count Wengiersky, a Polish Gentleman, travelling the Continent for his amusement, will have the pleasure to deliver you this; he comes recommended to me by the Marquis de la fayette and the Minister of France, and as he proposes visiting West Point, I take the liberty to request

your Civilities to him during his Stay there. Mr. Vernon, an English Gentleman, lately from Europe travels with the Count, and will I know equally participate in your attention. I am, etc.⁷¹

71. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker. Practically the same letter was also sent to Philip Schuyler, the draft of which is in the *Washington Papers*.

***To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING**

Rocky Hill, October 8, 1783.

Sir: The daily expectation of one of the two events wch. I designed should put an end to my Public Services, has nothing more to fix it to a period now than there was sevl. Months ago; and, as to carry my Papers home by Land (for I never could think of trusting them on the Ocean or Bay) was the only inducement for requiring Waggon to be retained for this Service; I have, to avoid further expence on this Acct. (as I think no great inconvenience can result from the seperation from my Papers at this time) come to a resolution of sending them off the lattr. end of this, or the beging. of next Week for my House in Virga; being more particu

lary induced thereto by the *Present low* condition of Waggon Horses, and the approaching season for Bad Roads.

I mention this circumstance to you, that you may consider whether it will not be better to dispose of both Waggon and Horses at Alexandria, after the Service is performed, than to March them back again; The latter will not only add considerably to the expence of the Trip, but will be a means of reducing the Horses (already unfit for the journey) so low as to be altogether unsaleable.

'Till the Waggon are loaded, I cannot say how many it may take to transport my Papers; but as they are very bulky it is probable that not less than 4 or 5 will do. In all, there are Six at this place. I wish to know your determination upon the expediency of selling the Waggon and Teams which go on; and what is to be done with the remainder (if any there should be) when I leave this place. I am etc.

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Rocky Hill, October 8, 1783.

Dear Sir: Captain Shaw⁷² has handed me your Letter of the 2d. instant.

I have been impatiently waiting the determination of Congress to ascertain what number of Troops are actually to be kept up in the Garrison of West-point during the Winter but I do not see any probability of their coming to a speedy decision; on the contrary, the Members with whom I have conversed seem unwilling to lessen the present force whilst the British remain in the Country and when they will quit it is a matter of uncertainty. I shall therefore by this conveyance send orders to Colonel Pickering to extend his provision for the Winter to the number of 2500 or three thousand Men. Captain Shaw is gone to Philadelphia, by his return I shall reply to your other Letters. With great regard etc.⁷³

[MS.H.S.]

72. Capt. Samuel Shaw.

73. In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Rocky Hill, October 10, 1783.

Sir: I inclose you the Copy of a resolve of Congress passed the 26 Sepr but which did not come to my hands untill yesterday.

Should there be in your Department any more Officers than are necessary for the Troops remaining in service I have to request you to grant them furloughs in compliance with the resolve. I am etc.⁷⁷

[N.Y.P.L.]

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Rocky Hill, October 10, 1783.

Sir: I have to reply to your several Letters of the 20 Sep and 3 and 6th. of this Month.

The Glass was safely delivered

77. In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

me by Cap Pinkney I am obliged to you for your information respecting the oppression of some of the Inhabitants of Long Island by the British; but as the offence is against the Subjects of the State, it belongs more properly to the Executive Authority to take cognizance of it, and I wish you in all matters of this kind to give information to the Governor, that they may take such notice of them as they think proper.

You mention your having forwarded to me the begining of September several Letters from Europe; I [cannot] recollect to have reced [any] Letters from you whilst at Newburg but am confident that since my arrival at this place (about the 20 Augt) none such have come to my hands; the only Letters of yours in the Month of Scptr. are one of the 1st. one of the 5th. and the one mentioned above of the 20th neither of which enclosed the Letters you mention. I therefore wish you to recollect to

whose care you committed them, that the necessary enquiries may be made. I am, etc.⁷⁸

To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER McDOUGALL

[Rocky Hill, October 15, 1783.]

Dr Sir: By the last Post I was favored with your Letter of the 5 Instant; and I take the earliest Opportunity to acquaint you of my compliance with your request.

Tho' I have ever been averse to Officers going into New York on every slight pretext, I was always ready to grant my permission when real business required their presence. I am, etc.⁸⁷

78. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

87. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

Under date of October 22, in the *Washington Papers*, is one of the printed reports of the committee of Congress on Indian Affairs and western lands (James Duane, Richard Peters, Daniel Carroll, Benjamin Hawkins, and Arthur Lee), who, on October 15, submitted these "additional instructions and propositions" to their former report. Opposite the third paragraph of these additional

instructions Washington has written: "It appears to me that all Surveys not made by proper Authority; more especially those which are intended for the purpose of speculation should be declared Null and void; and Monopolies inhibited under the severest pains and penalties. How far it may be consistent with good policy to remand *actual* Settlers I will not take upon me to determine, but this I am clear in, that they ought to be restrained to a certain quantity of Land pr. poll to avoid the evils just ennumerated."

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Rocky Hill, October 16, 1783.

Dear Sir: Since I had the pleasure to write to you on the 8th. Instant, I have received your Letter of that date.

I am clearly of opinion that the services of those Men whose times expire so early in the spring, are not adequate to their Clothing and Maintenance during the Winter, but, as I said in my last letter, such seems the disposition of the Members of Congress with whom I have conversed on the subject, that they are not willing to part with any of the Troops whilst the British remain in New York; all therefore that [can be done]⁹³ at present is what you [propose],⁹³ of getting what service we can from some of those whose times first expire and then discharging them; whilst this is doing Congress may possibly come to some determination on the matter.

I now inclose you sundry

93. Mutilated.

resolves of Congress, which you will please to have published to the Army, tho some of these have been passed sometime, it was but within a very few days that I was officially acquainted with them. I am etc.⁹⁴

[MS.H.S.]

To COLONEL MARINUS WILLETT

Rocky Hill, October 16, 1783.

Sir: The last post brought me your Letter of the 3d of this Month.

Whether the whole, or what part of the five Companies of State Troops, are to be retained in service during the Winter, being a matter wholly dependent on the determination of Congress [in their arrangemt. for Peace], it is impossible to give any directions respecting them. I would wish you to inform me imme

94. In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

diately what steps have been taken in consequence of the Orders I gave when I last saw you; by the time I receive this information, 'tis probable that Congress will have come to some determination which will enable me to give the necessary directions on the Subject.⁹²

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Rocky Hill, October 16, 1783.

Dear Sir: Major Shaw not returning so soon as I imagined, and the subject of your Letter of the 28 September not admitting much delay I take the opportunity of the Post to reply to it.

On referring to the Institution of the Society of the Cincinnati I find that the Chevr. de la Luzerne, the Sieur Gerard, the Counts D'Estaign, de Barras and De Grasse, the Chevalier Des Touches, and the Count de Rochambeau, with

92. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

the Generals and Colonels of his Army, are to be presented with the Order of the society.

As it is however proper that these Gentlemen should be made acquainted with the nature of the Society, I propose to write to each of those above named (except the Chevalier de la luzerne who was written to in the first instance) and inclose them a Copy of the Institution, at the same time informing them, that Major L'Enfant is charged with the execution of the Order, and has directions to furnish them from the first that are finished.

I propose also to inclose a Copy to the Marquis de la Fayette, and request him to take the signature of such of the French Officers in our service, who are entitled and wish to become Members, to receive their Months pay and deliver them the Orders on their paying for them.

These Letters Major L'Enfant will carry with him, and deliver to each of those

Gentlemen, and must be directed to deliver them the Orders so soon as they are compleat, delivering them to Count Rochambeau for the Officers of his Command, who will receive them of him, and to the Marquis de la Fayette sufficient for the French Officers in our Service, who become Members.

I inclose to you the permission for Major L'Enfant to go to France, and a Certificate of his being a Member of the Society; however before he setts off, I think it should be well explained, and understood by him, that the Voyage is not undertaken for the Society, but that their business is committed to him, only in consequence of his going there on his own affairs and consequently he is not to be paid any Expençe of the Voyage or his Stay, but only such Extra Expences as might be incurred by any person residing in France, who transacted the same business for the Society; these are my sentiments, if they accord with yours and the rest of the Gentlemen, and he accepts these conditions, I think the sooner he sets out, the better.⁹⁰

I will be

90. The original of the permission, signed by Washington, to Major L'Enfant "to be absent from his Corps untill the first day of May next, for the purpose of going to France on his own private affairs," is dated Oct. 16, 1783. It is in the Massachusetts Historical Society.

obliged to you to make out his instructions comprehending the objects I have mentioned above, and such other as you may think necessary, and to make the necessary arrangement with him respecting the funds to be furnished. I am told subscriptions have been paid in by those who wish to have Orders. I propose taking seven, for which the money is ready at any time, and it may not be amiss in this place to inform you, that it has always been my intention to present the Society with 500 Dollars; if any part of this is necessary, and can with propriety be applied in this business I have no objection.

Majr. L'Enfant might also be directed to receive from the Marquis the Months pay of the French Officers in our service who become Members.

I must request you to procure Six or seven Copies of the Institution to be made out neatly, to transmit to the Gentlemen above mentioned; Major

L'Enfant can bring them on with him.

I intend immediately to write to the Commanding Officer of each of the State Lines who have not yet made known their intentions respecting the formation of their State Societies, pressing them to a determination, for as I wish to adapt the place of the general Meeting to the convenience of all until I know which of the States form the Society I cannot fix it. With great regard⁹¹

91. In the writing of Benjamin Walker. From the original in the *Papers of the Society of the Cincinnati*, in the Library of Congress.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON

Rocky Hill, October 16, 1783.

Dr. Sir: Your Letter of the 3d. Instant which I received a few days since, informed me of your intention to retire from the Army.

Permit me, my dear Sir, to take this opportunity of expressing to you my obligations for the support and assistance I have in the course of the War received from your abilities, [and attachment to me.] As during our service together you

have always possessed my esteem [and affection] so you will now carry with you every possible wish I can form for your future happiness. I beg you to present my compliments to Mrs. Huntington, and to believe me with great regard, etc.⁹²

To BARON STEUBEN

Rocky Hill, October 18, 1783.

Dear Sir: I am informed that there are at Philadelphia Six or Eight Officers, and about one Company of the Invalid Regiment; that some of the Officers, by the loss of Limbs and other inabilities, are rendered totally incapable of acquiring by their own exertions a support in life others are in a degree

debilitated, whilst some are recovered from their Wounds and enjoy a good State of Health; the Men also must be in very different circumstances.

92. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

I wish you, with the assistance of such of the public Physicians as are in town, to have a critical Inspection of this Corps as soon as possible, that those of the Men who are fit objects and wish to avail themselves of it, may be permitted to take the benefit of the Act of Congress granting them a Pension; and those who are Strangers in the Country and are rendered incapable of supporting themselves may be removed to West point where they can be maintained at much less expence to the public than at Philadelphia, which Post can then be broken up.

Such Officers too, as do not wish to retire as the other Officers have done on furlough, may be removed to West Point where they may live much more to their ease and satisfaction. I am, etc.⁹⁷

97. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

On October 18 Washington wrote briefly to the Secretary of War that he had given the foregoing directions to Steuben. The draft of this letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

Also, on this same day (October 18), Washington wrote, very briefly, to Brigadier General Laumoy, forwarding a certificate of service. The draft of this letter is in the *Washington Papers*, as is also the draft of the Certificate.

On October 24 Washington wrote to Colonel Nicola that previous to the receipt of the memorial from the officers of the Invalid Corps directions had been given to Baron Steuben to make the inspection they requested. The memorial is in the *Washington Papers* under date of Oct. 28, 1783.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL LOUIS LE BÈQUE DU PORTAIL

Rocky Hill, October 19, 1783.

Dr. Sir: Genl. Laumoy and Colo. Gouvion did me Justice in mentioning the regret I feel at your intention of leaving this Country; the personal attachment which naturally grows out of such a length of service together had I no other motive would occasion a regret at parting; but it is considerably heighten'd by your quitting the service and thereby depriving me of the

hope of seeing you return to benefit the Country by your abilities and Experience in your profession, [if such an Establishment as this great Empire ought to adopt for the Peace of it should be finally agreed to, but which at this moment is yet undecided.]

It would afford me much pleasure to tell you this personally before your departure, but if I should not have this satisfaction I beg you to be assured that you carry with you every good wish I can form for you, and that [I shall ever retain a grateful sense of the Aids I have derived from your knowledge and advice and more especially for the repeated testimonials I have recd. of your friendship and attachment to me.] I am etc.⁹⁸

98. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker. The portions in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Rocky hill, October 23, 1783.

Dear Sir: The arrival of the Definitive Treaty and the evacuation of New York, have been so long delayed as to interfere very materially with our arrangements for the Celebration of Peace; at this Season no use can be made of the Bower,³ the only possible means of accomodation, besides, the dissolution of the Army at so short a period totally defeats the object in view, for if we were even determined not to wait the events on which the Celebration has hitherto depended, it would now be impossible either to make the necessary preparations or to give timely notice to the Officers, before the Army would be dissolved: I think therefore that it will be best to deter it until the British leave the City, and then to have it at that place,

3. Knox's letter of September 10 says "bowers."

where all who chuse to attend can find accomodation.

Sir Guy Carleton some time since informed me, thro' Mr. Parker, that he should leave New York in all next Month, probably by the 20th., and that when the Transports which were gone to Nova Scotia returned, he should be able to fix the day; this notice may be short, and as it is best to be prepared, I wish you to confer on the subject with Governor Clinton, and have every necessary Arrangement made for taking possession of the City immediately on their leaving it; you will please to report to me the arrangements you may agree on.

Inclosed I transmit you Copy of a Proclamation of Congress for the dissolution of the Army,⁴ you will please to publish it to the Troops under your Orders.

I am now to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 15th of this Month, If the Men whose terms of service expire in December and January, are not sufficient for the purpose

4. Dated Oct. 18, 1783. The original is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*.

of procuring Wood for the Garrison, I have no objection to your including those whose inlistments expire February, [this may be done now with greater propriety than heretofore as the British Force at New York has been very considerably reduced within this Fortnight.]

In permitting the Officers to retire nothing more need be attended to, than to keep a sufficient number for the Troops who remain in service. It is now three Weeks since I directed the Clothier General to make the necessary provision of Cloathing for the Winter. I am not yet informed how far he has proceeded in compliance with these directions, but I will do all in my power to have you supplied. By a return made this month I observe there is a quantity of Cloathing in Store at Newburg; this will go far in supplying the immediate wants of the Troops; observing in the distribution of it to favor those Men who having longest to serve

are most intitled to it. There is some refuse Cloathing returned which might relieve the Wants of those who are to be discharged. With very great regard, etc.

P. S. Since I wrote the foregoing I have reced a Letter from Governor Clinton in which he mentions his wish that the Troops who move down may be put under his direction which I think very proper so long as they remain in or near the City.⁵

[MS.H.S.]

5. In the writing of Benjamin Walker. The words in brackets in the draft are in the writing of Washington, whose capitalization is here followed.

To COLONEL RICHARD HUMPTON

Rocky Hill, October 24, 1783.

Sir: The Honorable the Congress having, by their Proclamation of the 18th Instant, thought proper to discharge their Army; I am to desire that immediately on the receipt of this you proceed to discharge the Troops under your Command at Philada. You will please to call at the War Office for Blank Discharges and report to me your proceedings in this business. I am, etc.⁹

To CAPTAIN PHILIP LEIBERT

Rocky Hill, October 24, 1783.

Sir: In answer to your Memorial which I reced yesterday, I am to inform you that Major General Baron Steuben

9. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

has directions to make an Inspection of the Invalids at Philadelphia, and to report the situation of the respective officers. You will please therefore to lay before him any pretensions you may have. I am, etc.⁶

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Rocky Hill, October 26, 1783.

Dear Sir: It gives me infinite satisfaction to transmit you the inclosed Copy of a Resolve of Congress of the 18 Inst.¹⁰ which was put into my hands yesterday.

Perfectly coinciding with the sentiments which Congress have expressed on this occasion I shall feel the greatest pleasure in complying with their Resolve; but I must request you to inform me where the pieces of Ordnance are to be found, and to what place you would wish to have them sent. I am, etc.

6. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

10. That two pieces of field ordnance, taken from the British at Cowpens, Augusta, or Eutaw, be presented by the Commander in Chief to Major General Greene, and that they be engraved with the substance of the resolution of Congress.

P S. I have reced your Letter with the names of several Officers who wish to remain in Service on a Peace Establishment. I shall take pleasure in mentioning them whenever such an Establishmt takes place, at present it hangs in suspence.¹¹

11. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

On October 26 Washington wrote a brief note to Knox, introducing Arthur Noble, a gentleman from Ireland. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Rocky Hill, October 30, 1783.

Sir: I am directed by the Commander in Chief to enclose you his Farewell Orders, which he desires you to publish on the 2d. day of next month; As the General will take measures for publishing them in the Philadelphia Papers, perhaps it will be better that they come to the public thro' that Channel only, as thereby all incorrect Copies will be prevented from appearing. I am, etc.¹⁵

FAREWELL ORDERS TO THE ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES

Rock Hill, near Princeton, November 2, 1783.

The United States in Congress assembled after giving the most honorable testimony to the merits of the faederal Armies, and presenting

15. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "David Cobb."

them with the thanks of their Country for their long, eminent, and faithful services, having thought proper by their proclamation bearing date the 18th. day of October last. to discharge such part of the Troops as were engaged for the war, and to permit the Officers on furlough to retire from service from and after to-morrow; which proclamation having been communicated in the publick papers for the information and government of all concerned; it only remains for the Comdr in Chief to address himself once more, and that for the last time, to the Armies of the U States (however widely dispersed the individuals who compose them may be) and to bid them an affectionate, a long farewell.

But before the Comdr in Chief takes his final leave of those he holds most dear, he wishes to indulge himself a few moments in calling to mind a slight review of the past. He will then take the liberty of exploring, with his

military friends, their future prospects, of advising the general line of conduct, which in his opinion, ought to be pursued, and he will conclude the Address by expressing the obligations he feels himself under for the spirited and able assistance he has experienced from them in the performance of an arduous Office.

A contemplation of the compleat attainment (at a period earlier than could have been expected) of the object for which we contended against so formidable a power cannot but inspire us with astonishment and gratitude. The disadvantageous circumstances on our part, under which the war was undertaken, can never be forgotten. The singular interpositions of Providence in our feeble condition were such, as could scarcely escape the attention of the most unobserving; while the unparalleled perseverance of the Armies of the U States, through almost every possible suffering and discouragement for the space of eight long years, was little short of a standing miracle.

It is not the meaning nor within the compass of this address to detail the hardships peculiarly incident to our service, or to describe the distresses, which in several instances have resulted from the extremes of hunger and nakedness, combined with the rigours of an inclement season; nor is it necessary to dwell on the dark side of our past affairs. Every American Officer and Soldier must now console himself for any unpleasant circumstances which may have occurred by a recollection of the uncommon scenes in which he has been called to Act no inglorious part, and the astonishing events of which he has been a witness, events which have seldom if ever before taken place on the stage of human action, nor can they probably ever happen again. For who has before seen a disciplined Army form'd at once from such raw materials? Who, that was not a witness, could imagine that the most violent local prejudices

would cease so soon, and that Men who came from the different parts of the Continent, strongly disposed, by the habits of education, to despise and quarrel with each other, would instantly become but one patriotic band of Brothers, or who, that was not on the spot, can trace the steps by which such a wonderful revolution has been effected, and such a glorious period put to all our warlike toils?

It is universally acknowledged, that the enlarged prospects of happiness, opened by the confirmation of our independence and sovereignty, almost exceeds the power of description. And shall not the brave men, who have contributed so essentially to these inestimable acquisitions, retiring victorious

from the field of War to the field of agriculture, participate in all the blessings which have been obtained; in such a republic, who will exclude them from the rights of Citizens and the fruits of their labour. In such a Country, so happily circumstanced, the pursuits of Commerce and the cultivation of the soil will unfold to industry the certain road to

competence. To those hardy Soldiers, who are actuated by the spirit of adventure the Fisheries will afford ample and profitable employment, and the extensive and fertile regions of the West will yield a most happy asylum to those, who, fond of domestic enjoyments are seeking for personal independence. Nor is it possible to conceive, that any one of the U States will prefer a national bankruptcy and a dissolution of the union, to a compliance with the requisitions of Congress and the payment of its just debts; so that the Officers and Soldiers may expect considerable assistance in recommencing their civil occupations from the sums due to them from the public, which must and will most inevitably be paid.

In order to effect this desirable purpose and to remove the prejudices which may have taken possession of the minds of any of the good people of the States, it is earnestly recommended to all the Troops that with strong attachments to the Union, they

should carry with them into civil society the most conciliating dispositions; and that they should prove themselves not less virtuous and useful as Citizens, than they have been persevering and victorious as Soldiers. What tho, there should be some envious individuals who are unwilling to pay the debt the public has contracted, or to yield the tribute due to merit; yet, let such unworthy treatment produce no invective or any instance of intemperate conduct; let it be remembered that the unbiassed voice of the few²⁵ Citizens of the United States has promised the just reward, and given the merited applause; let it be known and remembered, that the reputation of the foederal Armies is established beyond the reach of malevolence; and let a conscientiousness²⁶ of their achievements and fame still unite²⁷ the men, who composed them to honourable actions; under the persuasion that the private virtues of oeconomy, prudence, and industry, will not be less amiable in civil life, than the more splendid qualities of valour, perseverance, and

25. This word should be "free." It is written "Free" in Cobb's draft.

26. "Consciousness" in the draft.

27. "Incite" in the draft.

enterprise were in the Field. Every one may rest assured that much, very much of the future happiness of the Officers and Men will depend upon the wise and manly conduct which shall be adopted by them when they are mingled with the great body of the community. And, altho the General has so frequently given it as his opinion, in the most public and explicit manner, that, unless the principles of the federal government were properly supported and the powers of the union increased, the honour, dignity, and justice of the nation would be lost forever. Yet he cannot help repeating, on this occasion, so interesting a sentiment, and leaving it as his last injunction to every Officer and every Soldier, who may view the subject in the same serious point of light, to add his best endeavours to those of his worthy fellow Citizens towards effecting these great and valuable purposes on which our very existence as a nation so materially depends.

The Commander in chief conceives little is now wanting to enable the Soldiers²⁸ to change the military character into that of the Citizen, but that steady and decent tenor of behaviour which has generally distinguished, not only the Army under his immediate command, but the different detachments and seperate Armies through the course of the war. From their good sense and prudence he anticipates the happiest consequences; and while he congratulates them on the glorious occasion, which renders their services in the field no longer necessary, he wishes to express the strong obligations he feels himself under for the assistance he has received from every Class, and in every instance. He presents his thanks in the most serious and affectionate manner to the General Officers,as well for their counsel on many interesting occasions, as for their Order²⁹ in promoting the success of the plans he had adopted. To the Commandants of Regiments and Corps, and to the other Officers for their great zeal and attention, in carrying his orders promptly into execution. To the Staff, for their

28. "Soldier" in the draft.

29. "Ardor" in the draft.

alacrity and exactness in performing the Duties of their several Departments. And to the Non Commissioned Officers and private Soldiers, for their extraordinary patience in suffering, as well as their invincible fortitude in Action. To the various branches of the Army the General takes this last and solemn opportunity of professing his inviolable attachment and friendship. He wishes more than bare professions were in his power, that he were really able to be useful to them all in future life. He flatters himself however, they will do him the justice to believe, that whatever could with propriety be attempted by him has been done, and being now to conclude these his last public Orders, to take his ultimate leave in a short time of the military character, and to bid a final adieu

to the Armies he has so long had the honor to Command, he can only again offer in their behalf his recommendations to their grateful country, and his prayers to the God of Armies.

May ample justice be done them here, and may the choicest of heaven's favours, both here and hereafter, attend those who, under the devine auspices, have secured innumerable blessings for others; with these wishes, and this benediction, the Commander in Chief is about to retire from Service. The Curtain of seperation will soon be drawn, and the military scene³⁰ to him will be closed for ever.³¹

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Rocky hill, November 2, 1783.

Dear Sir: I had the pleasure to reply to your Letter of the 15th. October to go by the Post before the last, but by some neglect my letter was left out of the Mail and remained in the Post Office untill the Evening before the last Post should have gone, when it was, with all the Eastern Mail, stolen from thence; unfortunately too, all the

30. The word "Scene" is inadvertently omitted.

31. From the copy in the writing of John Singer Dexter, assistant adjutant general of the Continental Army.

From this paper, presumably, the orders were read to the troops then at West Point. It is indorsed by Brig Gen. James Clinton: "Genl Washington farewell orders to the Army in 1783." It is now (1937) on deposit in the Library of Congress. The draft, in the writing of David Cobb, is in the *Washington Papers*.

Copies of my letters up to that day met with the same accident, being inclosed to Colo. Varick to record.

I will now endeavour to recollect the Contents of my last.

If the number of men whose times expire in January are not sufficient for the purpose of providing Wood for the Garrison, I have no objection to your including those whose times expire in february:

this may be done with more propriety now than heretofore, the British having lately considerably diminished their force in New York.

In permitting the Officers to retire, nothing more need be attended to, than keeping a sufficient number for the Troops which remain in service. It is now a long time since I directed the Clothier General to provide the necessary Winter Clothing for the Troops, he has not informed me what he has done in this business, I will press him again,

and do all in my power to have you supplied; In the mean time the Clothing at Newburg will go some way in relieving your present wants, observing in the distribution of it to favor those who having longest to stay in service are most entitled to it; there is some refuse Clothing returned in store which might be applied to the most pressing wants of those whose times soon expire. So far one letter, in another which was lost at same time, I mentioned that Sir Guy Carleton had informed me verbally thro' Mr. Parker of his intention to evacuate the City in all November, and that when the Transports which were gone to Nova Scotia returned he should be able to fix the day, that as the Notice might be short I requested you to confer with Governor Clinton and have every necessary arrangement made for taking possession of New York the moment the British should evacuate it. I mentioned also the propriety of the Governors having the Command of the Troops who should move down, whilst they remained in or near the City. With great esteem etc.²⁴

[MS.H.S.]

24. In the writing of Maj. William Jackson.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES ARMAND-TUFFIN

Rocky hill, November 3, 1783.

Dr. Sir: I enclose you a Resolution of Congress which was passed on the 29th. of last month, and transmitted to me yesterday; by this you will observe the necessity I am under of requesting you to discharge the Legion under your Command as soon as possible; on application to the War Office in Philadelphia you may be supplied with the necessary blank discharges. I am, etc.³⁴

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Rocky Hill, November 3, 1783.

Sir: I am favored with your Letter of the 27 of October.

34. The draft is in the writing of David Cobb.

As Congress have by their Proclamation, discharged all that part of the Army which were before furloughed I am to desire you to continue to discharge such Officers of your Department as become Supernumerary instead of furloughing them as directed in my last. I am, etc.³³

33. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

On November 3 (the "Letter Book" record is dated November 4) a certificate of service was given to Capt. Samuel Shaw, usually called "Major," from his aide rank. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

To DOCTOR JOHN COCHRAN

Rocky Hill, November 4, 1783.

Sir: The Troops in Pensilvania, and to the southward of it (except the Garrison of Fort Pitt) being all discharged by a Proclamation of this day, it appears to me no longer necessary to keep in service so many Officers of the Hospital Departmt

as are included in the within Copy of a Subsistence Roll for this Month as has been transmitted me. I am now to desire you, to transmit me as soon as possible a List of such Officers of your Departmt as it will be absolutely necessary to retain for the Troops which remain in service, and to acquaint the rest that their services are no longer necessary.³⁷

37. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

On November 4 a certificate of service was granted to Captain Bartholomew von Heer. The draft of this certificate is in the *Washington Papers*.

Also, on this same day (November 4), a certificate of service was granted to Maj. Allen McLane. A copy, apparently made in the War Office, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, no. 152, vol. 11. fol. 647.

To BARON STEUBEN

Rocky Hill, November 8, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have been favored with your two Letters, the former inclosing sundry Discharges which were signed and returned to you immediately; the latter enclosing a Certificate for Jno. Sloan, which is now returned with my certificate of his being entitled to the Pension.

I will request Genl. Lincon to take measures for having those Invalids who are to go to West Point conveyed thither by water; this may be easily done, as Vessels must be constantly going to New York from whence there are daily Opportunities to West Point; but as General Lincoln is going himself to the Eastward it may require somebody to press the Execution of any directions he may send to the War Office in Philadelphia; and as it is a matter in which humanity is interested I make no apology for requesting you my Dr Sir, to take this task upon

yourself. With respect to those who cannot be removed, or who will even be in capable of taking care of themselves, let me request you to make the best provision for them you can, either by making an agreement for their reception into the Hospital, or any other way you may think best; such of them as are entitled to the pension may have their Certificates signed as I pass Philadelphia.

The Men who go by Water to West point should go in charge of some Officer, to procure a passage for them from New York. I expected to have had the pleasure of your Company on my Journey to West point⁵⁰ but the sudden adjournment of Congress⁵¹ before the time they had fixed on, hastens me and prevents my giving you timely Notice of my departure, as I have been detained these two days by the Quarter Master, and do not set out 'till tomorrow morning.⁵²

50. Washington's route to West Point was by way of Brunswick, Elizabethtown, Second River Ferry, Hackensack, Tappan, and Kings Ferry to West Point.

51. November 4.

52. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To MAJOR JOSEPH PETTINGILL

West Point, November 17, 1783.

Sir: I have received your Letter of the 14 Instant. It is undoubtedly just that you should receive the same compensation⁶⁶ that others have for the like services; but I cannot recollect that any extraordinary pay was ever allowed to Officers for the Services you mention. On the contrary, it has generally been considered as an agreeable duty, as it afforded the Officers employed in it, an opportunity to remain with or near their families. I am, etc.⁶⁷

To CAPTAIN JONATHAN LAWRENCE, JUNIOR

West Point, November 17, 1783.

Sir: It gives me real uneasiness when I am unable to afford any assistance in a case

66. Pettingill's claim was for extra compensation while on recruiting duty in Boston in 1782.

67. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

that seems evidently to bear very hard on an individual who merits extremely well of the public. In this predicament I now find myself with regard to the situation you have described in your Letter of the 11 Instant for having already declined to interfere in a similar instance I could not comply with the present application without the imputation of partiality, did not the same reasons that operated then still prevail. I will candidly inform you it was my opinion that an Officer totally disconnected with the service by resignation could not be entitled to any of the emoluments that might afterwards accrue in the course of it; and that a deviation from this rule would establish a precedent to which no limit could be set; but if Congress should think otherwise I shall not be less pleased in your availing yourself of the circumstance, as I know the ill State of your health as well as

your peculiar situation in other respects carry a strong recommendation with them. With great regard I am etc.⁶⁹

To SIMEON DE WITT

November 17, 1783. Sir:

I am favored with your Letter of yesterday. the nature of your Office being such as that Congress may possibly still have occasion for you, I cannot think myself at liberty to grant the Discharge you request; but circumstanced as you are I would advise that you make a final application to that Body, to know whether they are inclined to comply with your former application or whether they have any further occasion for your services.⁷⁰

69. In the writing of Benjamin Walker. This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, no. 78, vol. XIV, fol. 559.

70. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

On November 17 Washington granted a certificate of service to David Brooks, Assistant Clothier General. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

PROCLAMATION

West Point, November 20, 1783.

Whereas at the time when the Troops who were engaged for the War were furloughed, the Men enlisted to serve three Years in the Legionary Corps commanded by Colonel Sheldon were permitted to be absent from the Army for a limited time; and whereas, from the circumstances which have since intervened, their farther services may be dispensed with, without detriment to the Public. In virtue of a Resolution of Congress authorizing me thereunto, I do therefore direct and Command that the said Non-Commissioned Officers, and Private Soldiers enlisted to serve three years in the Legionary Corps Commanded by Col Sheldon shall be from the present day discharged, they are hereby discharged from all further Service in the Armies of the United States.⁷⁸

78. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

New York, December 3, 1783.

Sir: The United States in Congress assembled having invested me with the power of arranging the Troops now in service in such manner as may consist with the public good, I have therefore to

communicate to you my ideas on the Subject, and commit to your discretion the execution of this business; (except in

such points as are particularly mentioned hereafter).

In the first place it [is my] design, that all the Inf[antry in the] Service of the United [States, should] be reduced to one [Corps consisting] of 500 R and F properly Officered, that these Men should be selected generally from those who have the longest term to serve, and that the remainder should be discharged as soon as the circumstances will permit. In the next instance the mode of appointing Officers is to be attended to. I have thought proper to nominate and appoint, as the Field Officers to be employed in this Service, and I would recommend that the appointment of the other Officers should [be] by agreement if possible; if other[wise] by seniority, or in any other mode which shall be deemed more convenient to the Gentlemen concerned, and more eligible for the public Interest. Tho I am not authorized to pro

mise any particular encouragement to the Officers who remain in Service, yet it appears evident to me, that, in case there should be any Peace Establishment, their claim for employment will be greater than that of any other Gentleman whatever.

The present Corps of Artillery, may be reformed and arranged in Companies, upon the bef[ore ment]ioned principles, or at any [rate, no more] Officers should be r[etained than are] necessary to comma[nd the men] actually in service. The purpose for which these troops are retained, is, for the securi[ty of the Post] and Stores at West point and its dependances and the Stores in general at ot[her places,] and the Block-hou[se at Fort] Schuyler; with respect to the latter I have mentioned my idea[s to the Governor,] and advised his keeping an Offr and 20 of the State Troops for it's secur[ity 'till you] can relieve them, which I wish you to do as soon as y[ou conveniently]⁵ can after the Arrangement has taken place.

The exhausted state of our Finances presses for a diminution of public Expences

5. The draft is mutilated and the words in brackets have been supplied from the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

at as early a period as may be; you will therefore be pleased to advise with his Excellency the Govr. of this State, and agree upon the earliest time when the reduction of the Troops may take place, without detriment to the Posts and Stores committed to their charge; after which you will cause the arrangement immediately to be carried into effect.⁶

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

New York, December 3, 1783.

Sir: The splendid display of Fire works last Evening was so highly satisfactory that I must request you to present to Captain Price⁷ under whose direction they were prepared, and to the Officers who assisted him, my thanks for the great skill and attention shewn in the conduct of that business. I am etc.⁸

[MS.H.S.]

6. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

7. Capt. William Price, of the Corps of Artillery. He was the Deputy Commissary of Ordnance and Military Stores in January, 1784, and served to March, 1787.

8. In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

New York, December 4, 1783.

Dear Sir: Finding it essential to the public Interest that you should superintend the Posts and military affairs in this Department untill some farther Arrangement, or untill the pleasure of Congress shall be known; I have therefore to request that you will remain in Service, untill one of the foregoing events shall take place; in the meantime you will be pleased to pay particular attention to the enclosed Instructions respectg a reformation of the Army. With great regard etc.¹¹

11. This draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

***To BARON STEUBEN**

Annapolis, December 23, 1783.

My dear Baron: Altho' I have taken frequent oppertunities, both in public and private, of acknowledging your great zeal, attention, and abilities in performing the duties of your Office; yet I wish to make use of this last moment of my public life, to signifie in the strongest terms my entire approbation of your conduct, and to express my sense of the obligations the public is under to you, for your faithful and meritorious Services.

I beg you will be convinced, My dear Sir, that I should rejoice if it could ever be in my power to serve you more essentially than by expressions of regard and affection; but in the meantime, I am perswaded you will not be displeased with this farewell token of my sincere friendship and esteem for you.

This is the last Letter I shall ever write while I continue in the service of my Country; the hour of my resignation is fixed at twelve this day; after which I shall become a private Citizen on the Banks of the Potomack, where I shall be glad to embrace you, and to testify the great esteem and consideration with which I am etc.⁶⁷

67. From the original in the office of the Secretary of the United States Senate.